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Arab news
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TODAY IN Arab news

Priority for mosques
In a message at the start of the Sixth Annual Week of the Mosques, King Fahd reaffirms that the Kingdom's first priority is to care fully for the mosques as they are God's houses on earth and the first schools for Islam and Muslims. — Page 2

Egypt's efforts for re-entry
Egypt, once cast out of the Arab world for signing a peace treaty with Israel in 1979, has made major strides in mending fences with fellow Arab countries. — Page 4

U.S. aid to Salvador
The Reagan administration is seeking \$60 million in emergency aid for the Salvadoran Army which has almost run out of ammunition, U.S. officials say. — Page 5

U.S. economy
The outlook for the United States economy is continuing to improve, pushing Wall Street to record levels, but there are fears about inflation and that a chaotic weakening of oil prices could threaten American banks. — Page 11

Test evenly poised
West Indies pace battery put India back on the defensive in their second venture after their batsmen had struggled to a three-run lead in the first cricket Test at Kingston. The Test, which is evenly poised, has seen bowlers hold the upper hand. — Page 12

Nkomo movements
Zimbabwean opposition leader Joshua Nkomo says he has been ordered to report to the police any movements he planned from his Bulawayo house. — Page 16

During invasion of Lebanon Arafat says Arabs lost chance to defeat Israel

KHARTOUM, Feb. 27 (Agencies) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat said Sunday that if a single Arab power had joined the Lebanese war last summer, "Israel would have been defeated and we would have entered Jerusalem."

The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) chairman told a congress of Sudan's ruling Sudanese Socialist Union (SSU) he had never seen the Israelis so weak as during the siege of Beirut, when he said he had only 14,000 fighters. Arafat also called on Sudan to block what he regarded as a "Zionist threat" of penetration into Africa.

Arafat arrived in Khartoum Saturday night on a short visit to President Jaafar Numeiri's invitation to attend part of the week-long congress session as an observer. The SSU is the only legal political party.

Asserting Israeli leaders maintain that their "sphere of interest" should extend from Central Africa to Pakistan, Arafat said: "At this point comes the role of Sudan in facing the Zionist threat... You have a historic responsibility to shoulder and we entrust you with our concerns as you are an Arab state."

Israel has been trying lately to mend broken fences with African countries, most of which broke off diplomatic relations with the Jewish state following the 1967 and 1973 Middle East wars. Only Zaire has resumed relations.

Arafat told the 2,000-member congress, which opened its session Saturday, the PLO shared in the African struggle against "racism, Zionism and imperialism."

"When I fight against Israel I am, in fact, fighting against racial discrimination in South Africa which is an ally of Zionism," he said.

Arafat spoke at length of the Lebanon invasion and the PLO fight against Israel.

He said 72,000 Palestinians in Lebanon were killed apart from 5,000 refugees massacred at the Sabra and Shatilla camps in Beirut last September.

He said 170,000 Israeli troops were involved in the invasion at one point but "I have never seen the enemy as weak as he was during the siege of Beirut."

He said the Arabs "missed a golden opportunity to defeat the enemy" when the Israelis were fighting in Lebanon "and the road to Jerusalem was open."

In bid to avert price war Oteiba, Berti view oil crisis

ABU DHABI, Feb. 27 (Agencies) — The oil ministers of Venezuela and the United Arab Emirates held talks here Sunday on means of forestalling an official declaration of a global price war, which UAE Oil Minister Mana Said Oteiba says could come "within a week."

In Kuwait, a top parliamentary figure was quoted as saying the present OPEC benchmark price of \$34 a barrel was unsound and predicting the price could plunge to \$20.

Venezuelan Oil Minister Humberto Calderon Berti, described by the UAE News Agency as OPEC's mediator, discussed the sagging market situation with Oteiba before the two made phone contacts with other producing nations.

Intensive contacts among producers began eight days ago after Nigeria, an OPEC member, fired what Arab states saw as the first shot of the oil price war by slashing its per barrel price by \$5.50 to \$30 a barrel.

Berti met in Paris last week with the oil ministers of Mexico, Kuwait and Algeria. The two Arab ministers then proceeded to London and Berti flew to Saudi Arabia and then to the UAE.

The Venezuelan departed in the early afternoon for a new round of talks in Paris. Speaking at a seminar at the Foreign Ministry Saturday night, Oteiba declared: "A decision on remedying the market situation must come within a week, collectively or individually." He previously warned that the Nigerian slash may be followed by a barrage of Gulf cuts "at a larger rate than we would have accepted within an OPEC agreement."

The chairman of the Kuwaiti National Assembly's economic and financial affairs committee was quoted by the newspaper *Al-Wakeel* as blasting what he described as "leniency by the Gulf states toward OPEC's outlaws." He said OPEC's ability to defend a price depended on that price's potential to revive Western demand for crude oil.

"The belief that the present benchmark can be defended is mistaken and unsound," Jasssem Al-Khorafi said, sharply criticizing the Gulf states.

Bonn bares hitch to arms pact

BONN, Feb. 27 (R) — The issue of the British and French nuclear deterrents is the only thing blocking agreement at Geneva disarmament talks, Foreign Ministry sources said Sunday.

Nancy throwing party for Elizabeth

SAN DIEGO, California, Feb. 27 (R) — After a hectic first day on the West Coast of the United States, Queen Elizabeth is the guest Sunday night at a spectacular Hollywood party laid on by Nancy Reagan.

British officials said the crowds which greeted the queen in San Diego Saturday were not as big as those in places in Mexico, her last stop.

But they attributed this party to the rain which lashed the naval city and to the fast-moving program of the queen and her husband, Prince Philip.

After the royal yacht *Britannia* was escorted into the harbor by an armada of 250 pleasure boats braving the choppy sea, Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip inspected U.S. warships from the royal barge before lunching on the aircraft carrier *Ranger*.

They spent the afternoon visiting the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, a maritime research center, and a string of other places of local interest before giving a party on board *Britannia* Saturday night for 50 local dignitaries.

Strict security was enforced throughout the day and police marksmen with automatic weapons watched over the royal couple from nearby rooftops.

They said a West German delegation led by disarmament expert Friedrich Ruth returned from Moscow Sunday with the impression that the Soviet Union was willing to take seriously Western arguments on disarmament.

But Soviet insistence that British and French nuclear weapons be taken into account in the Geneva medium-range missile talks was the issue blocking early agreement, they said.

Ruth, the sources said, argued that the British and French weapons were strategic, not medium-range missiles, and purely national deterrents.

The three days of talks in Moscow, involving Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Viktor Komlekov and other leading officials, covered a broad range of disarmament questions but centered on the U.S.-Soviet talks in Geneva.

Moscow has offered to cut its medium-range rockets to 162, the number of nuclear weapons held by Britain and France, to prevent the proposed deployment of U.S. Cruise and Pershing-2 missiles in Western Europe from December.

The United States "zero option" calls for the Soviet Union to scrap all its medium-range missiles in return for an agreement not to deploy the new weapons.

The sources said Ruth's delegation made it clear to the Soviet Union that the Western alliance backed the U.S. position at the Geneva talks and that there were no differences among individual member states.

The missile question has dominated the campaign for West Germany's general election next Sunday.

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Indira bows to Sikh demands

NEW DELHI, Feb. 27 (R) — Prime Minister Indira Gandhi Sunday announced religious concessions for India's Sikh community, including permission to carry daggers, which are symbolic of the religion, on internal flights.

Militant Sikhs have been campaigning for religious and political concessions from the government, including greater autonomy for the prosperous northern farming state of Punjab where most of the country's 12 million Sikhs live.

Addressing a large congregation of Sikhs at Delhi's golden-domed Bangla Sahib Temple, Mrs. Gandhi said the government was allowing Sikhs to carry a nine-inch (23-cm) dagger known as a kirpan with a six-inch (15-cm) blade.

The kirpan is one of the five symbols of the Sikh faith. Because of anti-hijack regulations Sikhs had been barred from carrying them on aircraft. Sikhs have been associated with several hijacks over the past two years.

Other concessions included a ban on the sale of tobacco and alcohol around the Golden Temple in the Punjab city of Amritsar, and the broadcast of Sikh religious hymns on the local station of the state-owned All India Radio.

But the prime minister made no reference to the Sikh demand that Amritsar should be formally declared Vatican-type city, nor to the political demands of the militants.

Japan rocked

TOKYO, Feb. 27 (R) — A strong earthquake Sunday night rocked a wide area of central and northern Japan, including Tokyo, but there were no immediate reports of damage, police said. The state-run Japan National Railway said rail services in and around Tokyo were halted after the tremors at 9:14 p.m.

Man with strange hobby found dead

PARIS, Feb. 27 (AFP) — A model French bank clerk afflicted with a mania for rubbish was found dead this week in his apartment here lying atop a mountain of collected rejects piled only four feet from the ceiling.

Claude Sarre, 49, described by colleagues as a neatly-dressed, quiet and well-mannered man was found lying on a huge mound of empty bottles, rags and scrap-paper apparently collected after years of scrupulous rummaging through garbage cans.

But strangely enough, the apartment was free of the usual fetid odours of stale refuse. Sarre cleaned every item of his strange collection before adding to the mounting pile spread through the flat. Police are investigating the cause of his death, the weekly *Le Dimanche* reported Sunday.

Sino-Soviet bid to better ties

PEKING, Feb. 27 (R) — Chinese special envoy Qian Qichen flew to Moscow Sunday for a second round of talks on improving Sino-Soviet ties, but diplomatic sources discounted the possibility of an early breakthrough.

They said there had been no signs that Moscow was prepared to make concessions to meet Chinese conditions for normalizing relations after two decades of bitterness.

Qian, a vice foreign minister, and Soviet Vice Foreign Minister Leonid Il'yichov held talks in Peking last October. No concrete progress was reported but the two sides agreed to resume discussions this year in the Soviet capital.

China has signaled its readiness to normalize Sino-Soviet relations on condition that Moscow withdraw its estimated one million troops from the Chinese border, halt its military intervention in Afghanistan, and put an end to Soviet support for Vietnam's role in Kampuchea.

Premier Zhao Ziyang said recently that China was sincere in its wish to improve ties, but that progress depended on Moscow making new efforts at the next round of talks.

The premier told foreign correspondents in Peking: "China wishes Soviet leaders to make new efforts to eliminate obstacles to the development of Sino-Soviet relations so that there will be a new breakthrough in the next round of consultations."

A few days later, Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian told a press conference the atmosphere at the October talks was good, and he hoped it would be as good in Moscow. "But progress depends on more than atmospherics," he said.

As he left for Moscow at the head of a 12-man delegation, Qian said the talks would probably last about the same length of time as the three-week October talks.

Asked if he was optimistic, Qian replied: "The weather here is not so cold. I hope the weather in Moscow won't be so cold either."

U.S. rejects China's charges

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27 (R) — The U.S. State Department took issue with charges by China that President Ronald Reagan's recent remarks about Taiwan represented a step backward in the U.S. position on Sino-American relations.

The State Department said in a statement that "the president wants a strong and stable relationship." An official New China News Agency commentary accused Reagan of interfering in China's affairs in remarks it said discarded the nine points in a Sino-U.S. communique signed last August.

Reagan told the conservative weekly magazine *Human Events* recently that Washington would continue to support Taiwan's defensive capabilities and would not improve relations with Peking at the expense of Taiwan. "This indicates a grave step backward in the U.S. position," the agency said.

The state department said Reagan had consistently said "he will abide fully by the provisions of all joint U.S.-China communiqués."

The communiques referred to are the Shanghai communique of 1972 which restored contact between the United States and China, the communique of 1978 which normalized relations and the August communique in which the United States said it would reduce the amount of defensive arms it supplied Taiwan.

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First priority to care for mosques, Fahd says

RIYADH, Feb. 27 (SPA) — King Fahd has reaffirmed Saudi Arabia's keenness to keep serving, looking after and developing mosques which are the first schools for Islam and Muslims, bases for building Islamic society, minarets of knowledge and science, sanctuaries and springboards for Jihad (holy struggle).

In a message Saturday at the start of the Sixth Annual Week of the Mosques, organized by the Ministry of Pilgrimage and Endowments in collaboration with the various ministries and government departments, King Fahd said that when the King-

dom of Saudi Arabia was first established, its prime objective was to raise high the banner of God and completely abide by the Divine Law.

For this reason, the King added, "our first priority is to care fully for the mosques for their being God's houses on earth. They are the first schools for Islam and Muslims. The mosque, where people prostrate themselves before Allah from the very first day, according to the Holy Qur'an, constituted the foundation for building the first Islamic society resting on faith."

King Fahd said that building, renovating, maintaining, equipping and providing the necessary services for the houses of Allah were indicators that Islamic society is following the right path — a society with real faith. The king cited verses from the Holy Qur'an to the effect that those who build and look after mosques are people who believe in God and the Day of Judgment, who pray, pay zakah (alms to the poor or their dues to society), fear only God and seek wisdom.

This Sixth Annual Week of the Mosques, the king went on, is a propitious opportunity for a serious review of the activities in Saudi Arabia in connection with mosques. It is both a review and an incentive for more action. The week is also a reminder for Muslims everywhere of their duty to promote mosques, rever them and keep them pure as centers of learning and areas for religious guidance. They youths should be encouraged to frequent mosques more and more and abide by their laws.



Minister Abdul Wahab Abdul-Wasie



King Fahd

Saudi Arabia, the king said, deems it a duty to constantly work to provide adequate mosques in every region and every district, whatever big or small, to enable every person, wherever he may be to worship God and pray in a place where he feels comfortable and safe. The government also provides the necessary manpower that makes it possible for the mosques to fulfill their Islamic message of furthering the fundamental Islamic values, promote virtue and dissuade people from vice.

In a statement, Minister of Pilgrimage Affairs and Islamic Endowments Abdul Wahab Abdul-Wasie highlighted the mosques' role in the Islamic society since the dawn of Islam and noted the Kingdom's strenuous efforts to give full care to mosques throughout the current year.

BRIEFS

Algosaihi congratulated

JEDDAH — King Fahd has congratulated Dr. Ghazi Algosaihi, the minister of industry and electricity and acting health minister, on the high production levels of the Nijran water plant. He was replying to a letter from the minister reporting on the plant's progress.

Loan requests

JEDDAH — The Real Estate Development Fund has received more than 300 loan requests from citizens in Jeddah and neighboring villages and channeled them to the headquarters in Riyadh for consideration. *Al-Madina* reported. There are already more than 10,000 requests awaiting a decision from all branches of the fund at the headquarters in Riyadh.

Makkah tunnels

MAKKAH (SPA) — Seven tunnels costing SR124 million, nearly \$35 million, are currently under construction by the Makkah governorate, the governorate's acting secretary Abdullah ibn Sadiq has said. In a statement to SPA Sadiq said the tunnels were part of a project including a ring road and a number of bridges. The project will make access to the Holy Mosque easier.

Malaysian minister

JEDDAH (SPA) — Malaysian Finance Minister Razaleigh Hamza has reviewed with Islamic Development Bank (IDB) President Ahmad Muhammad Ali cooperation between the bank and Malaysia, the talks held Saturday night also covered the bank's finances for current and new ventures in Malaysia.

Iraqi official

RIYADH (SPA) — Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al-Faisal discussed a wide range of Arab and international issues here Sunday with Iraqi Foreign Undersecretary Abdul Malek Yasin. The Iraqi official arrived here earlier in the day.

Loan to Indonesia

JAKARTA (SPA) — Saudi Arabia has loaned Indonesia SR172 million to help it build a highway. The agreement was signed Saturday on behalf of the Saudi Fund for Development by Muhammad Abdullah Al-Suqayyer, the fund's vice president, and for the Indonesian government by Finance Minister Dr. Ali Wardana. The signing ceremony was attended by Saudi Arabia's Ambassador to Indonesia Muhammad Said Basrawi.

77 licenses for industrial projects granted

RIYADH, Feb. 27 — The Ministry of Industry and Electricity has granted 77 licenses for industrial projects, including 57 national and 20 joint venture projects, during November, 1982 through February 1983, *Al-Nadwa* reported Sunday. The licenses were granted within the framework of the law for the encouragement and protection of national industries.

At the same time, the ministry awarded 34 licenses for non-industrial projects, bringing to 111 the total number of licenses it granted. The authorized capital for all the projects totaled SR1,226 million. The national component constituted 77.8 percent and the foreign component 22.20 percent, according to Dr. Abdul Salam Faresi, the ministry's undersecretary for industrial affairs.

Dr. Faresi said that the number of national firms in Saudi Arabia had reached 1,373 till the end of 1401H (1981) against only 635 in 1396H (1976) — which represents a 116 percent increase. Total investments for the establishment of factories until the end of 1401H amounted to SR23 billion. The figure was only SR10.3 billion in 1396H — an increase of 122 percent.

Industry workers totaled 82,315 in 1401H (1981). By the end of 1401H, (1981) there were 2,482 licensed factories in Saudi Arabia employing 150,281 workers. Total financing reached SR101,479.176.

Total raw material and spare parts imported for the plants and exempted from customs duties till 1401H came up to SR5,621,509, Dr. Faresi said. Requests for new licenses were increasing every day, he added. The ministry grants eight to ten licenses for new national plants every week, between two and four licenses for joint projects and some four to six licenses for foreign contracting and services projects.

Aba Al-Khail heads delegation to Taipei

RIYADH, Feb. 27 — Minister of Finance and National Economy Muhammad Aba Al-Khail will lead Saudi Arabia's delegation to the seventh session of the Saudi-Chinese Joint Commission on Economic Cooperation, opening May 19 in Taipei, *Al-Riyadh* reported Sunday.

Meanwhile, the Saudi-Chinese Joint Cultural Commission will convene here, March 12. A Chinese cultural delegation led by the undersecretary of the Chinese ministry of education will be visiting Saudi Arabia, March 9 for this purpose.

In a separate development, Aba Al-Khail said Sunday that the Arab Economic and Social Council had decided to intensify the drive toward Arab food security, in accordance with the directives of the Arab summit held in Amman.



CELEBRATION: The U.S. independence anniversary was celebrated Saturday evening at the embassy in Jeddah with a number of dignitaries and officials present. Shown here is Ambassador Richard Murphy (left) as he greets Dr. Ahmad Adib Al-Tyayr, a delegate from the American University of Beirut Alumni Association.

Intermediaries are banned from traffic departments

JEDDAH, Feb. 27 — Intermediaries who process paper work for third parties have been strictly banned from entering traffic departments by order of Public Security Chief Gen. Abdullah Al-Sheikh. A spokesman said that the instructions also apply to messengers of car agencies.

The spokesman said that the instructions were issued after complaints about the activities of such intermediaries had increased. Gen. Al-Sheikh came to learn that

relatively astronomical amounts were sometimes paid (up to SR2,000) for such services. He therefore directed all traffic departments to ban those persons from entering their offices. Only an application form signed by the person concerned will suffice.

He pointed out that the fees taken by the intermediaries used to harm the department's reputation. He also said that the instructions were issued in the interest of both Saudi Arabians and expatriates.

Algosaihi calls for blood donation

JEDDAH, Feb. 27 — Acting Health Minister Dr. Ghazi Algosaihi has urged all Saudi Arabian nationals and expatriates in the Kingdom to donate blood, *Al-Jazirah* reported Sunday. He said that the Council of Ministers had decided to raise the reward for blood donors to SR300 in cash for each 500 cubic centimeters.

In Riyadh, Dr. Marisour Al-Turki, the rector of King Saud University, led the campaign Saturday morning by donating blood at the start of a wide-scale campaign at the uni-

versity. He was followed by dozens, members of the teaching corps and students. The campaign will last for a month. Riyadh hospital blood bank will equip and send two cars to take blood from donors and carry it back to the hospital.

King Saud University has been organizing similar campaigns on its campus for the past eight years. According to Registrar Dr. Muhammad Nasser Al-Wuhaihi, more than 4,812 professors and students of both sexes donated blood during the period. Last year alone 1,391 persons gave blood.

Saudi-Algerian panel meets Tuesday

RIYADH, Feb. 27 (SPA) — Planning Minister Hisham Nazer will lead the Saudi Arabian delegation to the two-day session of the Saudi-Algerian joint Commission opening here Tuesday. The Algerian side will be headed by Nazer's counterpart Abdul Hamid Ibrahim Al-Meyali who will be arriving Monday evening.

The session will review the state of economic, social and cultural cooperation and the ways and means to boost it and increase trade between the two countries. Other topics include the establishment of a joint Saudi-Algerian company. The commission was set up during King Fahd's visit to Algeria last year.

U.K. group here to promote trade

By Suresh Shah
Arab News Staff

JEDDAH, Feb. 27 — A trade mission from the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Britain's largest was due here Sunday night on a 13-day visit to the Kingdom to explore the possibilities of investment and expansion of trade, according to a British Embassy spokesman.

The mission, representing 14 companies, is led by James W.G. Pirie Mark F. Petheram,

head of the chamber's Middle East and North African section, will accompany the team.

The team will be in Jeddah until March 3. Apart from meetings with businessmen, the members will hold discussions with chambers of commerce officials. They will visit Riyadh on March 4-6 and Buraidah on March 7-10.

The members offer consulting and engineering services, frozen foods, kitchen and bathroom equipment and management and instructor training for industry and office.

Naif confers with Filipino minister

RIYADH, Feb. 27 — Interior Minister Prince Naif conferred Sunday morning with the Philippines' Labor and Social Affairs Minister Blas Ople. Talks dealt with recruitment of Filipino manpower in Saudi Arabia.

Chamber of Commerce and Industry. He conferred Saturday with his Saudi Arabian counterpart Ibrahim Al-Ajaj.

The Filipino minister will arrive in Jeddah Tuesday where he will meet with commerce, industry and labor officials and chat with Filipino workers. He will lunch at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry on Saturday.

Algosaihi meets Irish minister

RIYADH, Feb. 27 (SPA) — Dr. Ghazi Algosaihi, the minister of industry and electricity, conferred here Sunday with the visiting Irish Minister of Industry and Energy John Bruton. Talks dealt with cooperation in the industrial field, particularly between the Irish government and the Saudi Arabian Consulate Services House.

jects between the Kingdom and Ireland relating to construction and dairy products. It was further decided to encourage such ventures. Algosaihi, who is also the acting health minister, said that he also discussed with the Irish official a host of health issues, such as the recruitment or seconding of qualified medical staff from Ireland. He also said that several trained Irish nationals were working at the Kingdom's General Electricity Company.

Dr. Algosaihi told reporters after the meeting that there were two joint industrial projects.

Dammam has 100,000 phone lines

RIYADH, Feb. 27 — Fouad Abu Mansour, assistant deputy minister for operation and maintenance affairs at Saudi Telephone, announced Sunday that the number of working lines in the East District (Dammam) reached 100,000, a level only achieved in two other districts in the Kingdom, Riyadh and Jeddah.

At the start of the expansion program, the citizens of East District had only 16,000 working telephone lines. Eastern District manager, Abdullah Abbas Al-Abbad, set ambitious goals for the area and formed a team of qualified managers to meet his objectives. Training was intensified, modern equipment was installed and the new "management by objectives" method of operation was formally adopted.

Mansour remarked that Saudi Telephone has achieved the fastest telephone growth rate in the world and that East District (Dammam) is one of the most advanced regions in Saudi Arabia for quantity of telecommunications service.

Today the citizens of East District are served by over 100,000 working telephone lines. Furthermore new equipment and training methods have greatly improved the quality of service for citizens.

Jeddah seminar highlights better bank-customer rapport

By K.S. Ramkumar
Arab News Staff

JEDDAH, Feb. 27 — Establishing better bank-customer rapport and improving mutual efficiency were highlighted at the two-day seminar held by the Saudi American Bank for its western region customers, which concluded at the Nova Park Hotel here Sunday.

Explaining the objectives of the seminar which was held for the Arabic-speaking customers Saturday and the English-speaking Sunday, the bank's vice presidents, John G. Hill and M. Alamgir Manzoor, told *Arab News* that the discussion helped the bank officials in removing certain misunderstanding among their customers in respect of trade transactions and bank formalities.

Hill, 37, said the seminar, which is one of the several types held by the bank for the last two years, is an ongoing commitment in terms of customer communication and education.

"This is all part of the general program that the bank has for its customers and throughout the year we'll be communicating with our customers on various topics of mutual interest," Hill said.

Manzoor, 33, who is resident vice president, said: "What we are doing is to familiarize our clients with products which we handle due to the imports into the Kingdom in respect of the letters of credit and documentary collections. The clients need clarifications all the more due to the innumerable ministry contracts and the required guarantees for the vast construction projects."

"We explained to the customers how all these are handled by the bank even as their deals and transactions take place so that the customers and their staff understand the bank's requirements and the larger business aspects," Manzoor added.

The end result will be, the bank will have smoother flow of transactions and the quality of service, which is our prime concern, will become better, he said.

Hill said the bank is concerned not only with its own efficiency but also with the protection of its customers' interests and help them improve the efficiency of their overall processes. The bank's responsibility increases all the more because it remains a partner with the customer in helping him carry out his business successfully.



CUSTOMER SERVICE: John G. Hill (left), vice president, Saudi American Bank, and M. Alamgir Manzoor, resident vice president of the bank discuss the bank-sponsored seminar held Saturday and Sunday for its customers at the Nova Park Hotel.

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Laser beam production: Riyadh tests successful

JEDDAH, Feb. 27 — The nuclear medicine department at King Faisal Specialist Hospital in Riyadh has used for the first time short-term laser beams manufactured locally at the hospital, *Al-Jadid* reported.

Dr. Nizar Muhammad Futeyeh, adviser and supervisor of the hospital, said that the substance produced was an iodine laser beam that focuses on the endocrine gland.

By measuring the small intensity of radiation in the form of a glare inside the body, it becomes possible to assess the functioning of the gland and photograph the endocrine tissue.

The process makes it possible to diagnose a number of diseases, including cancer of the thyroid gland. The laser beam used is iodine 123 which lasts for only 13 hours. It was produced by a new cyclotron at the hospital's cancer therapy center. By using the substance produced locally, the radiation given to the patient does not exceed three percent of the dose he would have taken if given the longer lasting beams imported from abroad for the same amount of data to be collected.

King Faisal Specialist Hospital and the Medical Research Center will produce more such equipment, as the discovery is considered a breakthrough in the history of Saudi Arabia's technological development. The hospital also expects to receive soon a laser called Gallium 67 in the form of gallium citrate which helps to detect cancer.

World Book Fair opened by Sattam

RIYADH, Feb. 27 (SPA) — The Fifth International Book Fair, organized by King Saud University, was formally inaugurated by Prince Sattam ibn Abdul Aziz, the deputy governor of Riyadh, here Saturday.

In a statement to SPA, Prince Sattam expressed pleasure with the display of nearly 100,000 books at the fair and praised the university's efforts in the educational and cultural fields. He said the great response shown by citizens to welcome the fair was the outcome of the government's policy to provide security and welfare to the people.

Sattam added that education was the cornerstone of the Kingdom's policy ever since the days of the late King Abdul Aziz and that the government was making big efforts to spread education throughout the country and Islamic education all over the world by providing direct or indirect aid.

More than 500 publishers from 300 countries are participating in the ten-day exhibition.

King Saud University Rector Dr. Mansour Ibrahim Al-Turki said the fair was the largest of its kind held in the Kingdom.



Dr. Soliman A. Solaim

Large Thai team to participate in ideal home show

By Habib Rahman
Arab News Staff

JEDDAH, Feb. 27 — Thailand will participate in a big manner in the "Ideal Home and Consumer Goods Exhibition" scheduled to be held at Jeddah's Expo Center March 17-26. C. Gasonboonnak, commercial counselor at the Thai Embassy, said that a total of 45 persons, including businessmen and officials, will arrive in Jeddah to participate in the show.

"It is the first time Thailand is participating in such a big manner," said the commercial counselor. He added that the group will exhibit a wide range of products which will include furniture, wooden door, rattan furniture, plastic products, bronze ware, brassware, jewelry and imitation jewelry, garments, carpets, canned food and fruits, pickles, fish sauce, rice flour, Chinese noodles and other food products.

He said that Thai exports to the Kingdom mainly include sorghum, maize, garments, parboiled rice, textiles, white rice, silver ingots, shoes, gloves and paints. During 1979 and 1980, the exports to the Kingdom increased 28.2 percent while its imports from Saudi Arabia jumped from \$459.8 million in 1979 to \$934.1 million in 1980, according to the latest available figures.

The commercial counselor said that Thai goods are getting popular in the Gulf states and "we want to further expand our trade especially with Saudi Arabia."

The Ideal Home Exhibition is expected to draw more than 100 national and foreign companies. Greek, Thailand, Philippines,

British company meeting sports complex orders

LONDON, Feb. 27 — The Lillywhites-Cantabrian of Cambridge, Eastern England, is packing large containers with hundreds of sports items for dispatch to the Al Hassa Sports Complex in Riyadh.

The equipment ordered covers 95 sections of sport and includes track and field athletics

Commerce Ministry issuing bulletins on foreign contracts

RIYADH, Feb. 27 — According to the instructions of Commerce Minister Dr. Soliman A. Solaim, the ministry has begun issuing periodical bulletins on all contracts signed by government departments with foreign firms, *Al-Riyadh* reported.

The bulletins will help owners of national industries and firms keep abreast with new contracts to contact those companies and offer them locally manufactured products or services. The ministry will also keep an eye on such firms to ascertain that they comply with the country's laws.

Commerce Undersecretary Dr. Abdul Rahman Al-Zamel said that the purpose of this measure was to encourage the private

sector in both industry and commerce. A week ago, he served a warning to foreign firms not to buy equipment they need for projects from outside Saudi Arabia in case similar items are produced locally and not to resort to Saudi Arabian intermediaries to import what already is manufactured by Saudi hands here.

The ministry will also compel owners of national firms to prepare complete lists of what they produce and get in touch with the foreign companies involved in government projects in Saudi Arabia to make deals with them so that they may buy whatever locally manufactured goods are suitable for their projects.



Prince Majed

Rule clarified for settlement of rent cases

JEDDAH, Feb. 27 — Makkah Governor Prince Majed has instructed police headquarters in Makkah, Jeddah and Taif not to refer any case of rent increase or evacuation notice to the governorate for inquiry about the law, *Al-Madina* reported.

The Prince said that police should not try to seek a grace period or new deadlines for lessors after expiry of their contracts with the landlords. Landlords he said should address their demands directly to the Civil Rights (Executive) Department in the district where the house is located for action. Requests must be coupled with photocopies of the contract, the national identity card and the ownership deed.

The department will thereupon immediately carry out the royal decree setting completely free the relationship between the tenant and the landlord. No deadline will be accepted, because the state already published the new law two years ago through all the information media, thus giving enough deadline for the public.

Gulf seminar on combating smoking opened

MANAMA, Feb. 27 (SPA) — The second Arab Gulf seminar on "combating smoking," started here Saturday.

Inaugurating the three-day seminar, Bahraini Education and Health Minister Dr. Ali Muhammad Fakhrud-Din urged participants to intensify their efforts in combating smoking everywhere.

Sheikh Isa bin Muhammad Al-Khalifa, chairman of the Arab Gulf Society for Combating Smoking said the gathering will discuss scientific research studies in religion, medicine and education dealing with harms caused by smoking.

"The seminar will help create awareness among the Arab Gulf people and protect them from its harmful results," he added.

Delegations from Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, the UAE, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, the Arab Gulf Health Secretariat-General and the International Cancer Society are attending the seminar.

16,657 visitors from Kingdom Cyprus tourist flow growing

By Suresh Shah
Arab News Staff

JEDDAH, Feb. 27 — Cyprus is fast becoming a major tourist attraction for those living in Saudi Arabia, if the influx of tourists from the Kingdom to Cyprus is any guide.

The traditional Cyprus hospitality, the scenic beauty of the island with the warm sea surrounding it, its historical and colorful sites and the excellent tourist facilities have contributed to a sharp 60.9 percent increase in the number of visitors last year, according to Charles Xinaris, director of the Cyprus Tourism Organization.

Xinaris, who visited Jeddah to study the special requirements of Saudi Arabian tourists and to organize Cyprus food and cultural festivals in the city, told *Arab News* that a record number of 16,657 persons from the Kingdom visited Cyprus last year, against only 10,352 in 1981. He renewed his contacts and met travel agents and tour operators for the promotion of tourism to Cyprus.

Cyprus is centrally located, a distance of 155 miles from Beirut, 370 miles from Cairo and 580 miles from Athens. More than 20 airlines, including Cyprus Airways, operate over 200 scheduled and charter flights weekly between the new International Larnaca Airport and many countries in Europe and the Middle East. "Cyprus Airways runs a direct flight twice a week from Jeddah, which takes only two-and-a-half hours," he added.

Xinaris said the flow of tourist traffic is growing rapidly from other Middle East and Gulf countries as its number was up by 46 percent at 123,149 last year.

Tourists from Lebanon registered a rise of 69 percent with its number going up to 53,041 last year from 31,381 in the previous year. Similarly, the number of tourists from Kuwait was up at 12,388 from 9,417; Syria 9,862 from 7,273; Jordan 8,930 from 7,914; Egypt 8,401 from 6,931; the United Arab Emirates 5,264 from 4,066; Bahrain 4,358 from 4,124; and Iraq 4,248 from 2,776.

Along with the tourist traffic, the business

SWISS NIGHT: The Swiss Night at the Al-Bilad Hotel does not take place Monday. The story which appeared in *Arab News* inadvertently indicated that the event takes place on Mondays when in fact it is held every Sunday evening.



C. Gasonboonnak

Italy, Denmark and Toshiba will have their own stands.

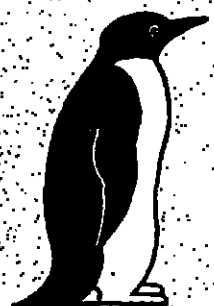
Last year's show drew large crowds and was successful. The 10-day show this year promises to bring together leading local merchants and international manufacturers who will display a wide range of consumer goods and services.

The show will feature furniture and furnishings, carpets and rugs, electronic goods, audio/hi-fi equipment, bathrooms and sanitaryware, clothing and textiles, cutlery and silverware, decor, domestic electrical appliances, food and soft drinks, household goods, garden and landscaping, jewelry and watches, kitchen and kitchenware, toys and sports goods.

The exhibition will give manufacturers and exporters an opportunity to boost their exports to the Kingdom which is embarking on ambitious housing projects. The new housing projects will certainly generate big demands for household and consumer goods.

products such as starting blocks, hurdles and finishing posts, lane markers for swimming events, tennis, badminton and squash equipment and various products for gymnastics.

Company Managing Director Colin Brown said: "We pride ourselves on having the widest selection of sports equipment available and being able to meet the most stringent delivery dates. If the items required are not available off the shelf, the staff will work flat out to ensure that they are ready by the required dates."



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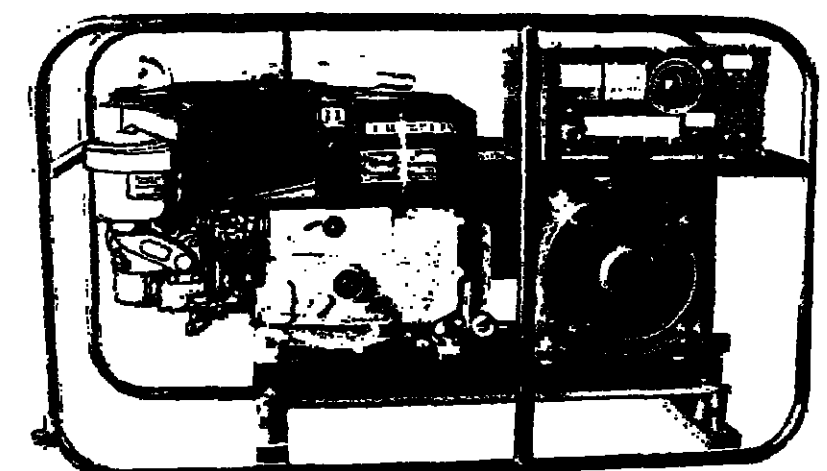
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Withdrawal of troops in sight, Wazzan says

BEIRUT, Feb. 27 (AP) — Prime Minister Shafiq Wazzan said Sunday he was hopeful that an evacuation of Israeli, Syrian and Palestinian forces from Lebanon would be completed before the U.S. presidential campaign begins, as U.S. presidential envoy Philip Habib flew to Israel.

"There is now a reasonable chance of achieving the beginning of Israeli withdrawals," Wazzan told the English-language Beirut weekly *Monday Morning*. The interview was published at a time when Habib was reported to have left Beirut for Israel for more talks with Israeli leaders on withdrawal plans.

State-run Beirut radio said the Middle East troubleshooter left aboard his executive jet at 10 a.m. refusing to make any statements to reporters.

Wazzan said the present American input to forge an agreement between Israel and Lebanon was characterized by "new energy and vitality."

"There is a different mood," he said. "There is a new dynamic American position. There are many new developments on the

internal Lebanese level, on the internal Israeli level and on the general Arab level. All these are having positive effects on the (tripartite) negotiations."

"Although we are hopeful that the withdrawals will take place before the beginning of the presidential campaign in the United States, we have become very cautious about deadlines given by various official quarters for a total withdrawal from Lebanon."

Several such deadlines including the end of 1982 and Feb. 15 had been set as dates for completing the evacuation of Syrian, Israeli and Palestinian forces from Lebanon.

Wazzan said Lebanon was prepared to "work out any security arrangements which would rule out Israeli presence in the South, especially military presence and including the presence of any early-warning stations." He said Lebanon was, however, ready to discuss the deployment of "international or multinational forces" in the South.

Israel had asked to maintain some stations after its withdrawal to ensure the security of its northern border and the non-return of Palestinian commandos to the region.

Libya warns U.S. against meddling

PARIS, Feb. 27 (Agencies) — Any bid by the United States to involve itself in Libya's relations with Egypt, Sudan or another Arab country is to be viewed as "interference in an integral Arab affair," The Foreign Ministry in Tripoli stated Saturday, according to a report received here from the Libyan news agency Jana.

Any American interference with Libya's links and stance for Arab unity "would be like foreign intervention between the American states of California and Alaska, or between Serbia and Croatia in Yugoslavia," the ministry commented.

The ministry, known as the People's External Liaison Bureau, was reacting to warnings by U.S. Secretary of State George Schultz Thursday that Libya was a constant threat to its neighbors Sudan and Chad.

U.S. Vice President George Bush said his country's involvement in the Libya-Sudan dispute convinced Qaddafi and others that the United States cannot be bullied.

Bush said Saturday in Louisiana the Soviet Union and others who might threaten world peace got the message. "This president has made it clear to Qaddafi" and others that the "days of pushing the United States of America around are over," said Bush.

But the vice president said he emphasized the Reagan administration's position on world peace to U.S. allies during his recent European tour.

"We have made it plain that we want a world free from the threat of nuclear incineration and free from the threat of revolutionary adventures," Bush said.

President Numeiri earlier this month accused Libya of a military buildup on the common border aimed at Sudan. He also charged that Libya had recruited mercenaries to foment trouble inside the country and that a Libyan-masterminded coup attempt set for Feb. 18 was foiled before it got off the ground.

The government-owned Khartoum newspaper *As-Sahafa* reported Saturday that 23 Libyan "agents" arrested in Sudan recently will go on trial on charges of plotting to overthrow the government, assassinate political leaders and commit acts of sabotage.

Meanwhile, an exiled Libyan opposition leader has claimed that two army colonels were executed last month after an abortive coup attempt against Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi. The claim was made by Dr. Muhammad Yousef Al Mugarif, secretary-general of the "National Front for the Salvation of Libya."

At a press conference in Khartoum Friday night, Dr. Mugarif said struggles against the Qaddafi regime were continuing all the time.

"The latest was last month when two colonels and two other officers were arrested for plotting against the government," he said. "The two colonels were executed and the other officers jailed," he added.

Dr. Mugarif said that last June 450 officers, students and professors had been arrested and that in April the government expelled 40 university students and dismissed 10 professors for anti-government activities.

Dr. Mugarif makes periodic visits to Khartoum but has declined to reveal where his organization is based. He denounced last week's hijacking of a Libyan airliner to Malta.

Backs Palestinians, Iraqis in their struggles

Egypt's all-out drive to re-enter Arab fold

CAIRO, Feb. 27 (R) — Egypt, once cast out of the Arab world for signing a peace treaty with Israel in 1979, has made major strides in mending fences with fellow Arab countries.

President Hosni Mubarak's policy of detente, his firm support of the Palestine cause and his bitter criticism of Israel's Middle East policy have improved Cairo's image to the point where officials here believe restoration of diplomatic relations with a number of Arab states to be a mere formality.

A major step in returning Egypt to the Arab fold has been its recent rapprochement with Iraq, whose leaders have expressed sympathy with Mubarak's conciliatory moves.

Egypt has supported Iraq in its 30-month-old war with Iran and sent Baghdad arms, ammunition and military equipment. After a recent ministerial visit to Baghdad, Egyptian presidential adviser Osama Al-Baz told reporters the Iraqi front was "politically, militarily and morally solid."

Iraq's restoration of Baghdad-to-Cairo flights and its acceptance of more Egyptians on working visits is viewed by observers as a sign that the Arab world is ending the four-year-old estrangement from Egypt.

However, Deputy Iraqi Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz told Reuters in Baghdad recently that restoring diplomatic relations with Cairo depended on the Arab League. Aziz said the cutting of ties with Egypt by all Arab countries except Sudan, Oman and Somalia was an Arab League decision and Iraq respected the Arab body's decisions.

But the foreign minister agreed that links could be strengthened in the absence of diplomatic representation. "We do not think diplomatic relations are the only way to create confidence with a certain country. It is necessary that cooperation between Iraq and Egypt should develop," he said.

President Mubarak's bitter criticism of Israel's invasion of Lebanon and the recall of the Egyptian ambassador from Tel Aviv in protest was another factor in improving Egypt's links with Lebanon and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).



Osama Al-Baz

Senior Palestinian officials have been frequent visitors to Cairo to convey messages from PLO chief Yasser Arafat on the Arab-Israeli conflict, and Mubarak has repeatedly said Arafat is welcome to come to Cairo anytime.

At the height of the Lebanese crisis, PLO envoys sought Cairo's help in conveying Palestinian views to the U.S. and Israel. Before he left for Washington last month, two senior Lebanese officials sought Mubarak's help with the U.S. in effecting a speedy withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon.

Egypt's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Boutros Ghali, and presidential adviser Dr. Baz visited Beirut and Amman earlier this month to discuss Middle East peace moves. Dr. Baz said: "Our relations with the Arab states have gone beyond emotional decisions and postures and it has been proved that Egypt remained the heart of the Arab nation..."

The absence of diplomatic relations would not prevent Egypt from acting to protect Arab interests, nor would they impede Arab countries from coming to Egypt, Dr. Baz said. But while striving to rebuild Egyptian bridges with the Arab world, President Mubarak has repeatedly asserted Cairo's firm commitment to the peace treaty with Israel.

Egypt is firmly convinced that the peace option is the best formula for a comprehensive Middle East settlement and it has persistently urged the Palestinians and King Hussein of Jordan to join hands in any peace negotiations.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hassan Ali told the People's Assembly (parliament) recently there was now a clear vision in the Arab world of Egypt's peace option as means of realizing a just and comprehensive Middle East settlement.

Besides rebuilding ties with the Arabs, Mubarak also wants to recapture a leading role for Egypt in the nonaligned movement.



President Mubarak

Israelis demand Sharon's ouster



TEL AVIV, Feb. 27 (AP) — Hundreds of "Peace Now" demonstrators marched peacefully through the rain-soaked streets of Tel Aviv Saturday to demand the ouster of former Defense Minister Ariel Sharon from the cabinet, Israel television said.

The demonstrators marched from the Defense Ministry carrying torches and signs that read "Sharon must go." Some wore rhinoceros costumes, symbolizing Sharon's "thick skinned" refusal to leave the cabinet.

Sharon was stripped of the defense portfolio and made minister without portfolio two weeks ago, after the commission probing the Beirut massacre found him indirectly responsible for the killings.

Begin's selection enrages Britain

TEL AVIV, Feb. 27 (AP) — Prime Minister Menachem Begin has chosen a comrade from his days as an underground anti-British terrorist to be ambassador to London, causing a slow burn in Britain.

The pending appointment of Eliahu Lankin, currently ambassador to South Africa, also has Israel's professional diplomats grumbling at Begin's penchant for putting old friends in prized posts instead of career people from the foreign service.

Lankin, is expected to be named soon to replace Shlomo Argov, who was severely wounded by Arab assassins last June.

Begin has shown no sign of backing off, and the protests voiced in Britain may make him all the more determined to send Lankin to London, given his prickly temperament, especially toward his erstwhile British enemies. In Britain Lankin is branded by many as an ex-terrorist.

When word of Begin's choice was leaked recently, cries of "not cricket" rose from some British Members of Parliament, including friends of Israel who feared Lankin's

appointment would alienate British public opinion.

Lankin's appointment confronts the British government with the prospect of a Buckingham Palace credentials ceremony for a man it once arrested as a terrorist and deported from Palestine.

That may be precisely what Begin is after, for it would force the British government to grant him the legitimacy it denied him when he was an underground leader in the 1940s, and continued to deny him long after he became a political leader aboveground.

The Begin government has 15 political appointees abroad. Until Moshe Arens was recalled from Washington to become defense minister the top three envoys in the United States were plucked from party ranks. That doesn't include Yehuda Blum, ambassador to the United Nations.

"We never had half as many political appointments before," said one senior diplomat, who declined to be identified. "This damages morale in the ministry and damages the professionalism of the foreign service."

BRIEFS

BEIRUT (AFP) — Weathermen were Sunday predicting an improvement in the weather here. More heavy snow falls above 800 meters Saturday prevented the rescue teams from clearing the mountain roads and reaching the isolated villages.

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli defense minister Moshe Arens formally took office here Sunday with a brief session with the Chief of Military Staff Gen. Raphael Eytan and senior ministry officials.

NICOSIA (AP) — Iranian and Iraqi forces clashed in the northern sector of their battlefield Saturday, away from the scene of the three-week-old Al Fajr operation which Iran launched three weeks ago, war communiques of the combatants indicated.

MONTREAL (R) — About 3,000 members of Montreal's large Greek community marched on the U.S. Consulate Saturday to protest against increased American aid to

Turkey.

NEW YORK (AFP) — More than 130 U.S. generals and admirals have urged President Ronald Reagan to exploit a "Soviet defeat" in the Middle East to strengthen U.S. influence there and "revitalize strategic cooperation between the United States and Israel."

CAIRO (AFP) — Charges of torture were received Saturday by the Superior State Security Court here trying a group of Muslim activists. Proceedings were delayed an hour after 20 of the accused refused to appear, in protest at tortures they said they continued to be subjected to in prison.

DAMASCUS (AFP) — Former British Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington, who arrived here Saturday night for a visit of unspecified length, met Sunday with Syrian Foreign Minister Abdul Halim Khaddam to discuss the Middle East.

Major bomb blasts rock Kabul city

MOSCOW, Feb. 27 (R) — Kabul was hit by three major bomb blasts last week in which several persons were killed and more than a dozen injured, the Soviet army daily *Krasnaya Zvezda* reported Sunday.

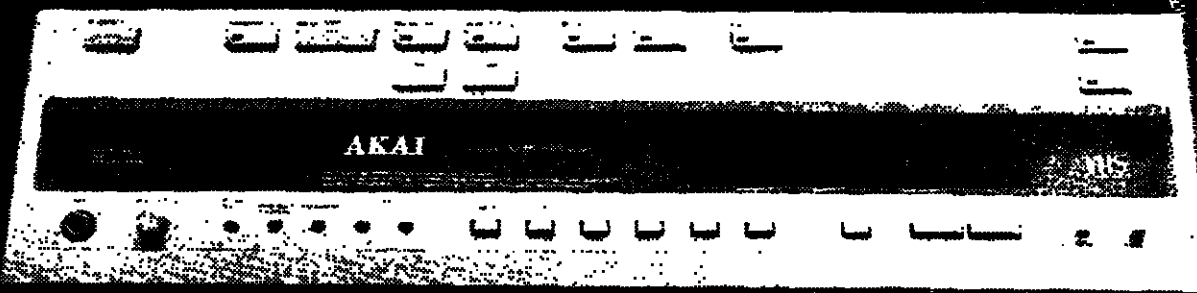
It said the bombs went off in crowded areas of the city last Tuesday and charged that they had been set off by resistance fighters in an attempt to whip up the population against the Soviet forces stationed in Afghanistan. The report was the latest in an increasingly frank series of Soviet media accounts of the situation in Afghanistan.

The most recent reports have made clear to Soviet readers that the resistance forces pose a serious threat to the pro-Moscow government in Kabul and have also begun to mention deaths of Soviet troops in action.

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U.S. plans \$60m aid to Salvadoran Army

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27 (AP) — El Salvador's Army is about to run out of ammunition and the Reagan administration plans to seek an additional \$60 million in military aid for it this year, U.S. officials say.

Two officials who spoke late Friday on condition that their names not be used said the administration still had not decided how to get the money in the face of a Congress increasingly skeptical about the U.S. commitment to El Salvador.

One possibility raised by Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger in congressional testimony this past week would be for the administration to use \$60 million of a \$75 million emergency fund earmarked for military emergencies anywhere in the world.

However, Weinberger and other administration officials said later in the week that they were also considering the diversion of military aid already approved for other countries, or seeking a supplemental appropriation from Congress.

The U.S. Congress approved about \$26 million in military aid for El Salvador in the current fiscal year, about \$40 million less than the administration requested. Last year, the total was about \$81 million, including \$55 million from the emergency fund sent after guerrillas destroyed the bulk of the country's tiny air force in February 1982.

U.K. poll favors centrists

LONDON, Feb. 27 (AP) — Thursday's special election victory by Britain's centrist Liberal-Social Democratic alliance has led to a dramatic surge in support nationwide, according to a survey published in *The Sunday Times*.

Thirty-four percent of those asked by Market and Opinion Research International said they would vote for the alliance in a general election — a jump of 12 percent over the last poll, taken just three weeks ago.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Conservative Party still leads the field, the MORI poll said. But the 39 percent who said they would vote Conservative was 6 percent less than the last sampling.

The big loser was Britain's main opposition Labor Party, rent by fighting between its moderate and radical left wings. Its share fell from 32 to 26 percent, *The Sunday Times* reported.

In Thursday's by-election in the south London dockland district of Bermondsey, Liberal candidate Simon Hughes scored an upset victory for the alliance, winning 58 percent of the vote in a seat Labor has held for 60 years. Labor's candidate Peter Tatchell, a radical leftist, polled but 14 percent, 44 percent less than the Labor candidate in the 1979 general election.

The rout led to speculation that Labor leader Michael Foot, widely blamed for fail-

ing to quell the party's internal strife, would step down. But on Friday, he refused, saying, "It is the desire of the party that I should stay."

The MORI poll, in which a representative sample of 1,002 persons was interviewed Friday and early Saturday, was the first time the Liberal-SDP alliance has edged Labor into second place since last year's Falklands War with Argentina. Mrs. Thatcher, lagging badly in the polls before the war, was given a commanding lead after British troops recaptured the Falkland Islands in June.

"The pressure on Michael Foot to resign the party leadership is now bound to reach a new intensity," *The Sunday Times* said.

Of those asked by MORI, 58 percent said Foot should go and 32 percent thought he should stay. Forty-seven percent thought he should be replaced by deputy party leader Denis Healey. But 71 percent said such a change would make no difference in how they'd vote.

In St. Andrews, Scotland, the Scottish branch of the fledgling Social Democratic Party held its first meeting Saturday, hearing national party leader Roy Jenkins tell them: "Bermondsey makes it abundantly clear that Labor cannot win the next election."

The prime minister must call new elections by May of next year but is widely expected to do so later this year.

Mexico ex-president cleared

MEXICO CITY, Feb. 27 (AP) — The federal attorney general's office ruled that there are no grounds to prosecute former President Jose Lopez Portillo for embezzlement, the official newspaper *El Nacional* said.

"There was no diversion of funds for individual or improper uses," according to a 46-page report, the newspaper said Saturday.

The report was in response to denunciations made by Luis Sanchez Aguilar of the tiny leftist Social Democratic Party and lawyer Ignacio Burgoa of Chihuahua University's law school.

Their denunciations claimed that Lopez Portillo and his aides improperly contracted for and managed the funds that raised Mexico's public foreign debt from \$19.6 billion at the start of his term in 1976 to \$57.2 billion when he left office in December.

Mexico's total public and private foreign debt is estimated at \$83 billion, the second largest in the Third World after Brazil. A fresh \$5 billion loan from an international

banking consortium is scheduled to be signed shortly.

Ambitious industrial development programs were started during Lopez Portillo's term, which was known for its "oil boom" years as Mexico became one of the world's major oil exporters. Last year, however, the oil glut caused international prices to drop and revenue fell short of what was needed to meet payments on the rapidly growing debt.

The country is now in the midst of its worst recession in decades. "The president of the republic could not nor would be able to receive, and did not receive, in any case the possession of the resources of external financing, the receipt of which is legally necessary to make embezzlement possible," the report from the attorney general's office said.

President Miguel de la Madrid, who succeeded Lopez Portillo on Dec. 1, has promised a campaign of "moral renewal" to end the long tradition of widespread corruption in Mexico.

Zhao launches '2nd ethics month'

PEKING, Feb. 27 (AP) — Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang launched China's second "Socialist ethics month" Saturday, urging attention to points ranging from loving the Communist Party to practicing family planning.

China began last year making March "Socialist ethics month," and Zhao said there has been "a gratifying change" in social conduct since then.

In an address on nationwide radio and television, Zhao said, "the public has become more conscious of civilization, courtesy, hygiene, order and morals."

He said there also was greater consciousness of patriotism and Communist ideology, duties and towns are markedly cleaner, and "the people and officials are in high spirits."

Last year's campaign brought such developments as fines for spitting.

It highlighted the "five stresses" — decorum, courtesy, public health, discipline and morals — and the "four beauties" — of mind, language, behavior and environment. This year, Zhao said the campaign would add the "three loves" — of motherland, socialism and the Communist Party.

The premier also mentioned the importance of family planning. With a policy of allowing only one child per family, China seeks to keep its present population of one billion from exceeding 1.2 billion by the end of the century.

At the same time, it is fighting a trend of parents killing baby girls so they can try again for a son to carry on the family name and care for the parents in their old age.

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CHILD RESCUED: A San Francisco fireman rushes a child from a burning apartment building that injured 13 persons, including nine firemen, Wednesday. The smoky fire forced evacuation of the six-story building which took 160 firemen to control.

Haughey pleads for all-Ireland

DUBLIN, Feb. 27 (AP) — Former Irish Prime Minister Charles Haughey called for a constitutional conference to create an all-Ireland state with "ironclad guarantees" to protect the Protestants of the North.

"Everything else has been tried, and the British government should now recognize that it is unable to govern Northern Ireland effectively, either directly or indirectly," Haughey said in a speech to the annual conference of the opposition Fianna Fail Party, which he leads.

"What ought to happen now and it cannot be much longer delayed is that the two sovereign governments should come together and create a framework for a new political settlement."

Since 1969, at least 2,280 persons have been killed in violence between Northern Ireland's 1 million-strong Protestant and 500,000-strong Roman Catholics communities.

The six counties of the North have been ruled directly from London since 1972, when the Protestant-dominated provincial assembly was suspended, and some 11,000 British troops are stationed there.

Haughey said that as it currently exists, Northern Ireland is an "unsustainable political entity" which survives "only by virtue of an artificial life support system" from Britain. The only hope for the province is a new political initiative on the part of London and Dublin, he said.

"The starting point for such a new political settlement must be an all-round constitutional conference to be convened on the basis that it would be a prelude to the final withdrawal of Britain from Ireland within a stipulated period of time," Haughey declared. His statement drew cheers from the Fianna Fail delegates.

Haughey said such a conference would work out "the transfer of power to new political structures for the whole island."

An overwhelming majority of Protestants in the North oppose union with the South, fearing domination by the republic's three million Catholics.

But Haughey said, "a major responsibility of such a conference would be to negotiate the castiron guarantees required by the people of Northern Ireland to protect their interests and their identity in a united Ireland."

Assembly to re-elect Suharto

JAKARTA, Feb. 27 (AFP) — For the third time since he took office 17 years ago, Indonesian President Suharto will report Tuesday to the consultative assembly on the last five years of his rule.

The assembly is expected to approve his policy and re-elect Suharto for a fourth term. The session will also choose the vice president, with former army chief Umar Wirahadikusumah now emerging as the front runner. The 11-day assembly meeting is expected to temporarily overshadow the country's economic problems following the fall in the price of oil. Oil has been at the backbone of Suharto's "new order" economic policies.

The meeting is expected to give "carte blanche" to Suharto to "lead the country toward prosperity."

However, President Suharto has let it be known that his fourth term will probably be last which makes the choice of vice president even more significant. Until the emergence of Umar, current Vice President Adam Malik had been expected to keep the job.

The choice of Umar, a former four-star general with five years experience in anti-corruption work, which is one of the jobs the vice president, reflects the importance President Suharto attaches to an "integrated" government, sources here said.

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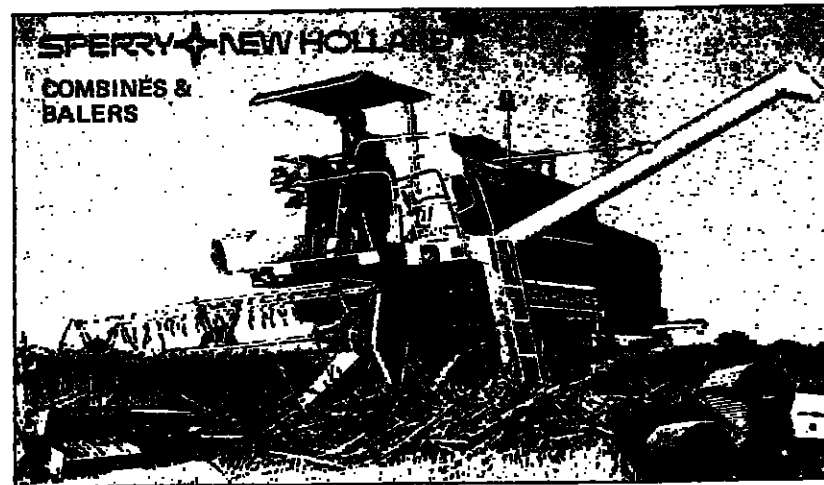
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Helping the desert bloom

Farmers discuss problems in Poland

KRAKOW, Poland, Feb. 27 (AP) — High on a hill, in a secluded cloister near this ancient Polish city, 80 angry Polish farmers met last week to discuss their problems and the future of their outlawed rural Solidarity union.

"Although Solidarity has been disbanded, it still thrives in the countryside as an idea," one farmer said at the opening of the seminar, which ran from Wednesday to Friday. The farmers allowed an Associated Press reporter to attend the first session on condition that neither the participants nor the exact location be identified by name. Rural Solidarity, country cousin of the federation of industrial unions that rocked Communist Poland in 1980 and 1981, claimed between one and two million members before it was disbanded with the declaration of martial law in December 1981. Uncertainty over the number of members, and the lack of rural response to the military crackdown, reflect the difficulty farmers have had pulling together a nationwide political movement.

The secluded seminar was the second of its kind held within the shelter of Poland's Roman Catholic church. It underscored the mood of discontent in the countryside and the current role of the church as provider of protection and a forum for free speech in Poland. "We have heard many opinions here, not all of which belong in a church," said one priest, spreading oil on the water during one stormy moment in the seminar.

"We are not going to attack Moscow with our scythes," said the priest, voicing the commonly held view at the seminar that martial law was declared with prior Kremlin approval. "But we are going to restore our human dignity, that is why we are holding this seminar."

Many of the farmers' remarks were frankly hostile to Communist authorities, but most focused on how to establish lines of communication between rural communities to help farmers help themselves, rather than rely on authorities.

One of the major complaints from the farmers was the alleged refusal of the centralized state distribution system to sell them needed machinery, seed, clothes, even coal, unless they sell the government their quota of produce. The policy, introduced with martial law, punishes them for selling their harvests on the more lucrative private market, they said. Another recurrent theme was guaranteed private ownership of land, a cornerstone of rural Solidarity policies and a nagging problem for Communist authorities.

Although private ownership contradicts Soviet-style Communist ideology, the Socialist government established in Poland in the wake of World War II distributed land to peasants, breaking up large estates that existed before the war. Private ownership was subsequently abolished, although farmers were allowed to remain "custodians of the land," thus nearly 80 percent of Poland's farmland is tilled privately, but legally belongs to the state. A state and private distribution system exist side by side.

Farmers retain private households but face a complicated legal procedure when they try to turn the family homestead over to the "custodianship" of their offspring. The state makes it much easier for them to cede their acreage to a collective farm, the farmers said.

The ruling Polish United Workers' (Communist) Party has pledged to amend the constitution to guarantee private ownership of land, but so far has not done so. Communist sources say party elders are having trouble justifying the measure in Marxist terms that would satisfy their Soviet neighbors. The farmers meeting near Krakow were distrustful of authorities, to say the least. "The government is trying to destroy the private farmer," said one man from central Poland, voicing a popular sentiment.

Many of the farmers, and the clerics who acted as their hosts and mentors, urged a more moderate stance, focusing on making local authorities more responsive to the needs of the rural population that makes up 41 percent of Poland's 36 million people.

Rising early, as is their habit, the farmers attended morning and evening prayers during the seminar, but spoke in often heated debate late into the night. A large percentage of them had been interned without charge for months under martial law and admitted frankly that the views they espoused freely during the Solidarity era could earn them prison terms if uttered in public today.

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3 killed in Mexico stampede

PIEBLA, Mexico, Feb. 27 (AP) — Thousands of fans stampeded toward the only open exit after a stadium concert by a rock music group, crushing to death a mother, her daughter and another girl and injuring 80 other persons, police and witnesses said Saturday.

"Children and women began to fall and they were trampled," said Patricia Gonzalez, a young fan of the Puerto Rican group, Menudo. "The men behaved the worst. They didn't respect anything, nothing mattered to them. It was horrible."

Reporter Jose Hermer Mendoza of the local *Nuevo Era* newspaper said one exit about four yards wide was the only one open for 20,000 fans to leave the Ignacio Zaragoza baseball stadium here when the incident occurred Friday evening.

Stadium officials did not explain why the other exits were blocked during the concert, held despite a steady rain. Puebla state gov. Guillermo Jimenez Morales said he ordered an investigation.

Felipe Mota, a Red Cross worker who helped the injured, said the fans wanted to hurry outside after the concert to see Menudo leave on their bus. Adolescent girls are particularly fond of the group.

Mota blamed the stampede on "the imprudence of the youngsters." He said the group was trapped in its bus by the fans for about one hour until police could clear a path for them.

The Red Cross took 80 persons to its local hospital for treatment and treated another 200 for minor bruises at the scene for four hours after the concert ended. Mota

said. He said most of those seriously injured had been punched, kicked and stomped.

"I only remember that I felt asphyxiated and I fainted," said Silvia Quiroz, a young fan with black eyes, rumpled hair and smudged face and clothes. She said she woke up at a hospital.

State police director Marcos Moreno Jimenez said about 200 officers on duty at the concert in Puebla, 78 miles east of Mexico City, could not handle the control of fans rushing to leave the stadium.

"You've never seen anything worse," said officer Leonardo Portillo. "No one wanted to bother to leave in an orderly way and remain calm."

Menudo performed before sellout crowds at New York's Madison Square garden earlier this month.

LEOPOLDINA, Brazil (AP) — A truck rammed a bus over a 12-foot embankment, killing 11 persons and seriously injuring 12, police confirmed here Saturday. The accident happened just outside this small city in southeastern Brazil.

VOLCANO, Hawaii (AP) — Kilauea volcano continued to fountain lava Saturday on its east rift zone, a scientist said. "It's a moderate but steady eruption," said Robert Decker, the scientist. He said occasional fountains of up to 60 feet had been reported Saturday morning.

MARSEILLE, France (AP) — A bomb was discovered Saturday evening in a

Texans offered prize for bagging snakes

TAYLOR, Texas, Feb. 27 (AP) — The first person who succeeds in putting 10 live rattlesnakes in a sack will win a cash prize at a rattlesnake picnic here next weekend. But any contestant will be penalized if he is bitten, whether the bite is fatal or not.

The participants will trap the snakes with forked sticks and are entitled to have an assistant hold a sack for them if they can persuade somebody to do that. People who prefer watching to competing, are invited to eat fried snake.

A group called the Heart of Texas Snake Handlers will demonstrate how to survive in the wilds of Texas — for example, how to slip gently out of a sleeping bag without annoying a rattler that has crawled in with you.

BRIEFS

restaurant where Interior Minister Gaston Defferre was to meet members of the Jewish community, police said. It was defused safely by bomb squad officers.

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AP) — NASA officials decided Saturday to replace a third defective engine intended for the U.S. space shuttle *Challenger*, which is already two months behind schedule for its maiden flight.

The problem was another leak, this time in the No. 2 engine. The engine will have to be removed and inspected to see whether it can be repaired at Kennedy Space Center, officials said. The latest difficulty could mean the launch will be postponed beyond the target

Soviet-Italian ties strained

ROME, Feb. 27 (AFP) — Relations between Italy and the Soviet Union have been considerably strained by the spy scandal which started with the arrest here 12 days ago of Soviet airline Aeroflot Commercial Deputy Director Victor Pronin.

A spokesman at the Soviet Embassy spoke twice here Saturday of the "damage" which could be caused by the affair. The complex spy story as reported by the weekly newspaper *Panorama* has so far brought four Soviet nationals into its web. The first is Pronin, 46, arrested on Feb. 14 while allegedly collecting microfilmed military secrets placed in a secret "post box" by his alleged Italian contact, Azeglio Negrino, agent for the microfilm company Microlito.

Next figures Viktor Koniaev, 38, commercial deputy director of the Italian-Soviet oil import company Nafta Italia, arrested two days ago and allegedly the "paymaster" for

date of March 20.

MANILA (AFP) — Four crew members and three passengers of a Philippine Air Force helicopter that crashed into the Camotes Sea two days ago are believed to be dead, press reports quoting the Air Force said. Searchers scouring the shark-infested waters have so far found no trace of survivors, the reports said.

LIMA (AFP) — Sixty-two guerrillas of the Maoist Path of Light Movement were killed in clashes between last Wednesday and Friday, military authorities in southeastern Ayacucho state announced.

the microfilms.

Also involved according to *Panorama* were two Soviet Embassy officials, first secretary and supposed "brains" of the outfit Genadi Churyshev and Yuri Missiak, trade office official. Both left the country after Pronin's arrest, the weekly said, although the Soviet embassy insists that they both left at least two months ago. According to *Panorama*, Negrino's confessions led to the cracking of the Soviet spy network.

Negrino said the two Soviet officials first contacted him near the end of 1981, to give his company the job of microfilming the files of Soviet commercial services in Italy, and later asked him to microfilm all Soviet commercial services in Europe.

The new project was worth about \$735,000 and Negrino was given an advance check of \$36,750 which he paid directly into his own instead of Microlito's bank account.

According to *Panorama*, it was this act which enabled the Soviets to blackmail him, demanding microfilms of material from major Italian firms, such as Aeritalia, involved in the Tornado combat plane project with Britain and Germany, Fiat and Alfa Romeo.

Negrino made his first delivery in December last year, giving the Soviets what he said was information of little interest — a claim supported by letters from his Soviet correspondents complaining of the dull nature of the microfilms. It was the second delivery of 50,000 frames, intercepted in a photographic shop not far from the Spanish steps in the heart of Rome by the Italian secret services.

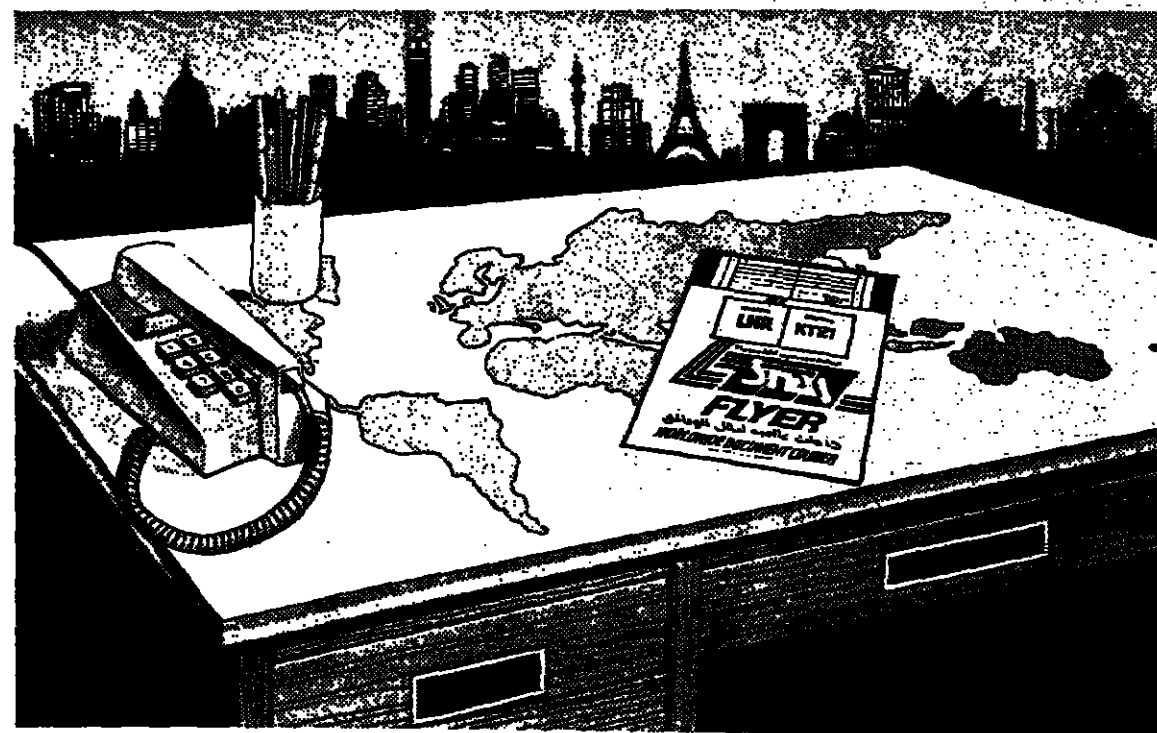
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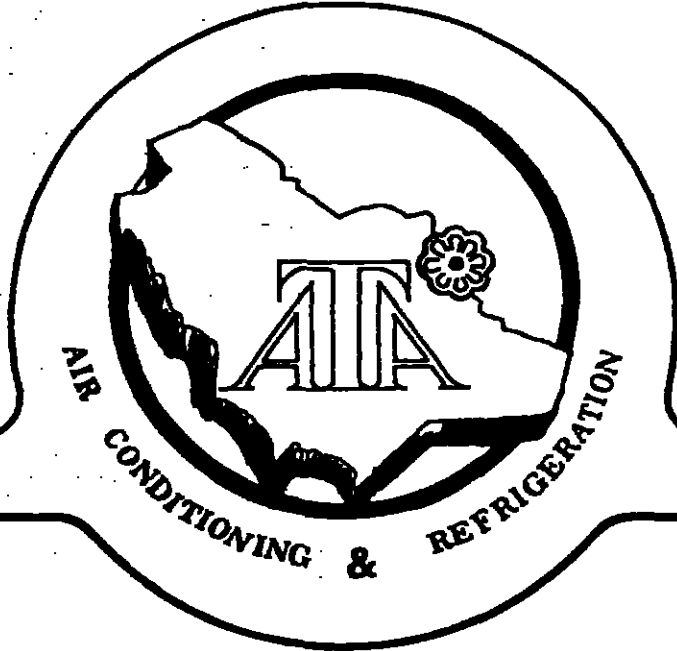
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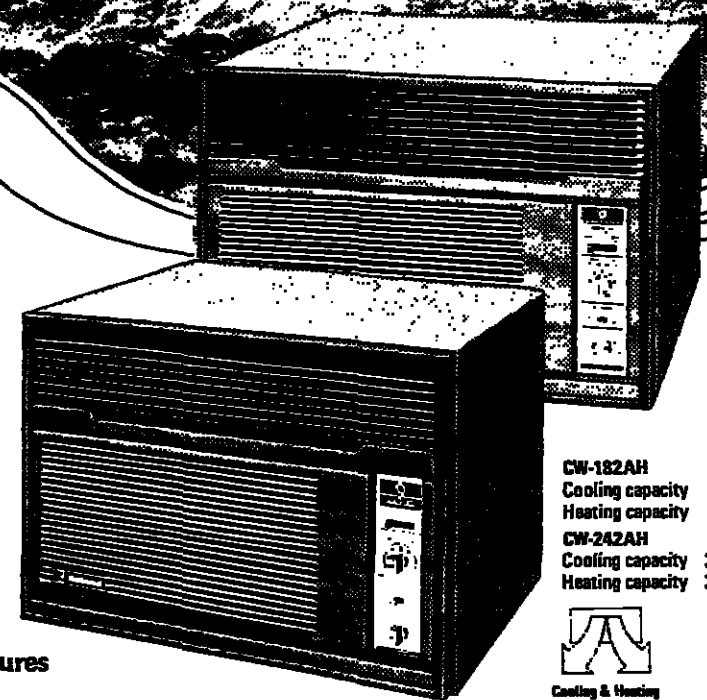
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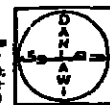


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TALKS ON SAHARA

The meeting between King Hassan of Morocco and President Benjedid of Algeria is auspicious even if the outcome may not be either immediate or spectacular. The fact that they have met to discuss the Sahara war indicates a willingness on the part of both leaders to reach a peaceful settlement, if this is at all possible.

The Western Sahara, annexed by Morocco when Spain decolonized it, has been the scene of a war by the Polisario, a front made up of some of the original inhabitants of the desert, funded, armed and given sanctuaries by Algeria, which claims that it had been shortchanged by Morocco. Libya also chips in with a few weapons and dinars.

It is true that the intensity of the war has lessened over the years because the Moroccan army has been greatly strengthened by the United States and succeeded in building literally a huge wall of sand and fortifications that surrounded the major towns and potash mines. At the same time, the wall has kept the Polisario in charge of some of the most dreary terrains on earth. Boredom soon set in and a stalemate, in favor of Morocco, has been the feature of the war since then.

But it is still an inter-Arab war which is draining the resources of both countries particularly Morocco, a poor country that has to foot the bill at the rate of one million dollars a day only to see it go up in smoke. Perhaps it has now dawned on both leaders that it is about time to start talking about a settlement acceptable to both countries as well as the people of the desert whose number does not exceed 100,000.

Such a settlement is not exactly round the corner. The desert people are split almost equally with half favoring independence and the other half already merging with the Moroccan people. But Algeria has to be taken into consideration because of its ability to perpetuate the conflict.

Only supreme Moroccan and Algerian statesmanship can get the three sides past the impasse.

Saudi Arabian press review

Newspapers Sunday gave extensive coverage to the resolutions adopted by the Palestine National Council at its recent meeting in Algeria.

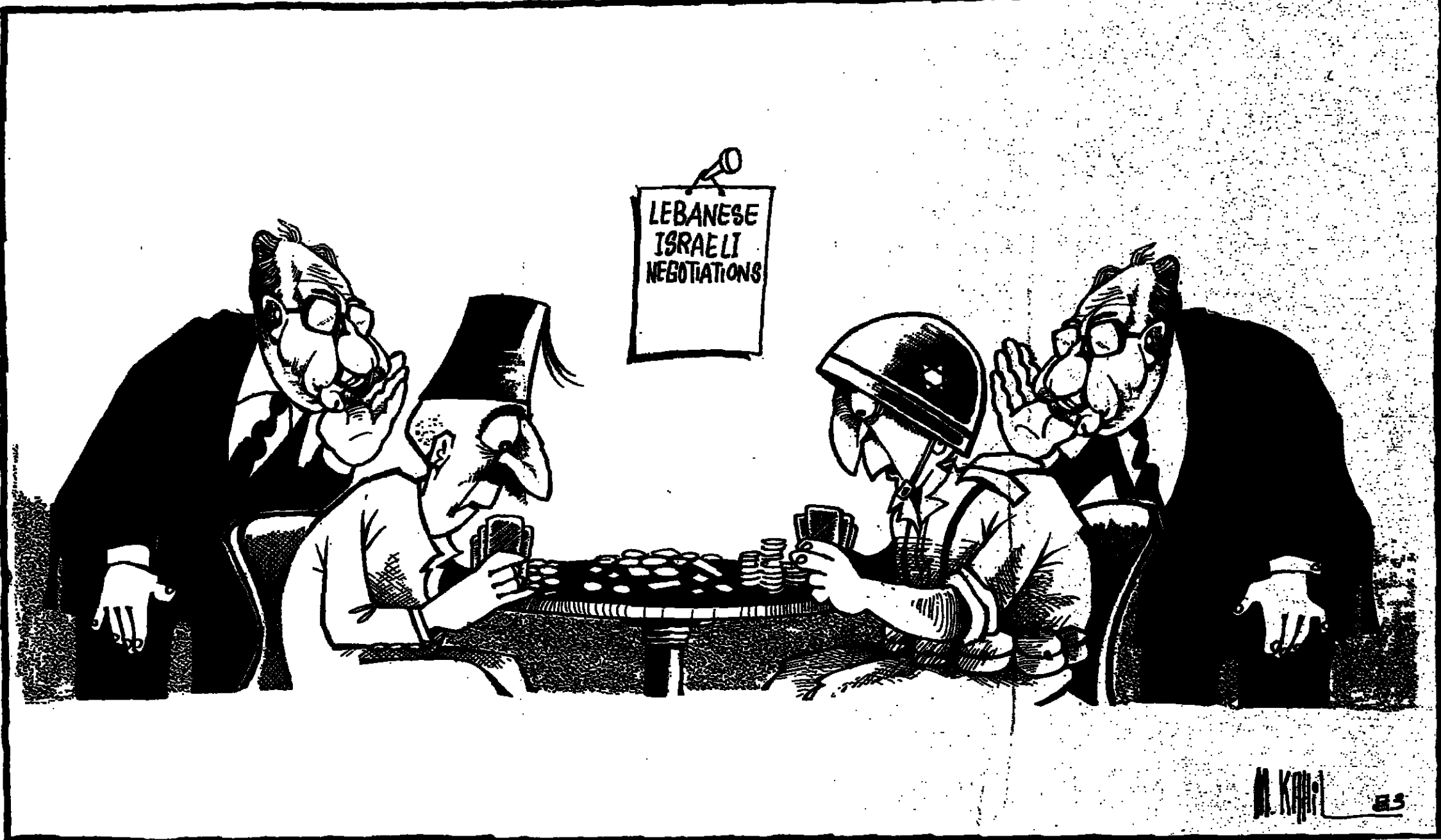
Al-Jazirah said the resolutions reflected a flexible Palestinian trend toward President Reagan's Middle East peace initiative. It added that the council's resolutions had brought worldwide support to the PLO and strengthened its ability to deal with international powers which had direct relations with the Middle East conflict.

"The positive Palestinian reaction toward the recent remarks made by President Reagan and his Secretary of State George Shultz on the Palestinian people's rights to have their homeland and get their rights, indicates PLO's flex-

ible stand," the paper added. "The new Palestinian policy has gained the U.S. support and placed Israel and international Zionism in a critical situation," the paper said.

Al-Riyadh described the remarks of Reagan and Shultz as an "evidence that the U.S. is concerned to establish peace in the region although it is unwilling to stir the anger of the Zionist entity."

Al-Madinah criticized the remarks and said they ignored the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people including self-determination and an independent nation. The paper asked if making such remarks was aimed at spotlighting the successful outcome of the PNC meeting and splitting Palestinian ranks. (SPA)



PNC lays basis for future Palestinian action

By Abdul Karim Abdul Nasr
Editor-in-Chief, Al-Majalla

LONDON —

What was the outcome of the Palestine National Council meetings which continued for more than 10 days in Algiers, attended by a large number of Palestinian leaders and representatives, in addition to observers and guests from nearly 120 states? What were the outstanding features of these meetings?

Was this 16th session of the National Council held to reconfirm the leadership of Yasser Arafat amid an atmosphere of a heated dialogue and a frank and democratic debate? Was this also held to reflect, once again, the tussle existing between the "moderates" and the "extremists" of the Palestinian ranks, or, precisely enough, between the "realists" and those who say "no" to everything? Was it also convened necessary to lighten the morale of the Palestinians after the Lebanese war and the Sabra and Shatila pogrom, and whether it provided an outlet for everything repressed in the hearts and minds of the Palestinians? Again, was it held to express, with an unprecedented strength, the keen desire of the Palestinians, in general, for their independent decision without any pressure? Was it also held to stress the keenness of the Palestinians on their national unity despite divergent views and opinions on one issue or another?

This session might have been held to express all this at one time, but many ask whether it was a new strategy for the next stage, and how, and on what bases, will the Palestinians now move?

Before answering these questions, it is necessary to go back to the beginning of the story. In the beginning, serious efforts were made by some Arab circles to stop this session. In this context, Ahmad Abdul Rahman, official spokesman of the PNC and a leading element in the Fatah movement, told us frankly that "before the beginning of this session, several hurdles came up to stop the convening of the meeting, with the aim of weakening the Palestinian leadership and preventing it from achieving legitimacy from the PNC. As a result, the Palestinian leadership appeared weak and incapable of adopting necessary resolutions to guide the actions of the Palestinians."

Weeks before the session was held many attempts were made by one group or another to show that the PLO was divided and that Arafat's leadership did not enjoy the support of all Palestinian forces inside the organization's executive committee and, therefore, it was illegal. The PNC's meeting was held to confirm the legitimacy of the Palestinian command and to assert that the Palestinians held fast to the PLO and its leadership and were anxious for national unity.

These attempts failed and the session was held in Algiers, the first time over in the Arab west. The Algerian officials worked hard to ensure that the Palestinians were able to adopt their resolutions away from any direct pressure or influence. President Chadli Benjedid of Algeria said clearly in his inaugural speech on Feb. 14, that "the final verdict is yours and you are the legitimate representatives of the Palestinian people."

Thus the session started at Al-Sanobar Palace, some 25 kms from the Algerian capital. More than 300 council members (with the absence of those in the West Bank and Gaza whom the Israeli authorities had not permitted to go), representatives of some 120 countries and nearly 1,000 jour-

nalists from various parts of the world attended. The Egyptian delegation was the largest in number, as it consisted of more than 80 members representing political, social, intellectual and professional personalities.

For the first time in the PNC history, three pro-Palestine American Jews and an Israeli journalist, who writes in *Le Monde* and who interviewed Arafat during the Beirut battle and wrote a book on the Sabra and Shatila carnage, attended this conference.

Before the session started, Arafat and other Palestinian leaders held a series of "preparatory" meetings in Algiers, lasting practically 50 hours over a period of three days. During the closed-door meetings, which were held in an atmosphere of total frankness, an agreement was reached on several main points which will provide a base for the future Palestinian action and will also provide the axis for PNC discussions. It was also agreed that differences in views on some main issues must not "paralyze" the Palestinian command in its move. The command must make a move even if there were "reservations" or "opposition" by some. The main points of these meetings were:

- * The unified Arab peace proposal approved by the Fatah summit;
- * The Reagan initiative;
- * Relations with Jordan;
- * Relations with Egypt; and
- * The question of a Palestinian dialogue with the Jewish "democratic and progressive" forces hostile to Zionism in Israel and outside.

Although the meetings were held secretly, it was reliably learned that an understanding was reached among the Palestinian leaders on matters that could be accepted without any reservation, those that could have reservation or those that could be opposed or rejected. But, more significantly, an accord was reached on the need for preserving the national unity and the democratic spirit at any cost.

This meant that the minority accept the majority's view without the differences jeopardizing the progress of work. An understanding was also reached that the PNC session reflect this and provide a scene for dialogue and democratic debate, reiterating Arafat's contention that "I do not lead slaves and I did not get the authority riding a tank."

Palestinians and peace
The main issue which had practically dominated the council's session was whether and how the Palestinians should embark on the peace process? Would it be through the Fatah proposal or through some other means? Whether the next stage would be that of peace or of confrontation and whether the Palestinians must repose confidence in the peace proposals and American promises? During the debates, two traditional views emerged: those who consider that the door of peace cannot be closed despite all hurdles and disappointments, and those who view that the Palestinians have no choice, especially after the Lebanese war, but a confrontation. Although the voice of those who expressed the second view was perhaps more clamorous, it does not mean that their views received a deeper echo from those who want the door of peace to remain open.

From time to time, we heard some people say: "Time is passing. We must avail of the opportunity quickly and make a move before Begin could be able to Judaize the whole West Bank and then nothing would be left for negotiation." It is said that these voices reflected the view of the people of the occupied land, and many observers were seen repeating the prominent view of Dr. Essam Al-Sartawi, Arafat's adviser for international affairs, that "peace is the only weapon for which Begin did not find an antidote."

In this context, the debate on the Reagan initiative and the American policy in the region was somewhat heated. Further, one of the surprises of this session was the political report submitted by Farouk Kaddoumi, chairman of PLO's politburo, on Feb. 15. In this report, he severely attacked the Reagan initiative "which is not different in its objectives from the Camp David accords." He said that "the Reagan initiative does not speak favorably of the inalienable national rights of the people of Palestine and also does not constitute a solid and acceptable basis for a solution to the Palestine issue and the Arab-Zionist tussle. It further aims at liquidating the Palestine issue by denying the right to return, self-determination and the establishment of a Palestinian state, and without accepting the PLO as the legitimate and only representative of the Palestinians."

He said that this initiative contained "several negative, serious and unacceptable points. Some people believe that it is positive, especially when

they hear Reagan speak about the Palestinian people, their right to a complete autonomy and disallowing Israel from a direct domination of the West Bank and Gaza. But these points are no less negative and serious than the previous ones." The report criticized the Palestinian command, saying: "Where is the democratic work and collective political decision? Where is the Palestinian organization which brings together all ranks with satisfaction? Do our actions reflect our resolutions which we adopt collectively?"

This kind of comment and the strong and open refusal of the Reagan initiative obliged the Palestinian sources to say that the report does not express the opinion of the PLO's executive committee, nor does it reflect the view of the Fatah leadership, but only that of the organization's politburo. In fact, Arafat's real stance has been to reject the Reagan initiative and to highlight its negative aspects.

The long report does not contain anything generally in contrast with the line of the organization's command. It calls for future relations on the basis of a confederation with Jordan, after the establishment of the Palestinian state. It also urges the adoption of the Fatah plan, for "it will be a powerful weapon in our hands after it has been widely accepted by our friends." The report further commends Saudi Arabia and its clear role in political contacts as well as its financial support. It also praises the attitudes of some other Arab states and criticizes the Steadfastness Front which "did not rise to the desired level in confronting the Zionist aggression."

Meanwhile, Dr. George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and Naif Hawatmeh, secretary-general of the Democratic Front, went further than Kaddoumi in attacking the American policy and the Reagan initiative. Both Habash and Hawatmeh pronounced an outright rejection of the Reagan initiative and the American policy. On the other hand, Ahmad Gibril, secretary-general of the popular front — the general command — announced his rejection of every thing, including the Reagan initiative, the Fatah plan and relations with Jordan and Egypt and also of any dialogue with the anti-Zionist Jewish forces. This situation led a Palestinian leader to say that "some people have been rejecting everything since 1947. Has this rejection benefited our cause?"

Arafat and the three developments

But it must be said that the open attack on the American policy came from various Palestinian leaders. Khaled Fahoum, who has been re-elected as chairman of the PNC, said that the criterion of the U.S. has been completely lost in the eyes of the Arabs. Arafat himself severely criticized the American policy and said that "we must not forget the U.S. standing behind every aggression with unlimited support for Israel." In this context, Dr. Nabil Shaath, an adviser to Arafat, summed up all the stances by saying that "most of the moderates will support the Reagan initiative for they are convinced that the U.S. will implement its promises. But the lack of confidence in the U.S. promises makes the moderates say that the matter does not deserve a rash attitude. We must not forget the sufferings of the Sabra and Shatila inhabitants who fell prey to American promises and guarantees."

Despite this, Shaath says that Arafat believes that the Palestinian leadership must enjoy the freedom of maneuver in order to be able to exploit any situation in favor of the Palestine issue. Therefore, it is necessary to leave all options open, including the American plan. Arafat believes that there are three developments that could open new horizons for the Palestinians, if they take place: an end to the Iraq-Iran war; an actual reconciliation between Egypt and the Arab states and a detente between the U.S. and the Soviet Union.

Fez, Jordan and Egypt

Considering the Reagan initiative, the Palestinians (excluding those who reject all political solutions) became convinced that the Fatah plan was acceptable. This view has been expressed by several Palestinian leaders including Fahoum, who said that the "Fatah plan is the minimum on which the Arabs agree." At a press conference, he said: "We do not want to annihilate any state in the region, nor do we wish to throw anyone into the sea... The Fatah plan conforms to the previous resolutions of the PNC, and its seventh clause means an equitable peace in the Middle East, especially the right to a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza with Jerusalem as its capital." This was the first time a

leading Palestinian official had openly specified the boundaries of the proposed Palestinian state, explaining that that state would occupy 20 percent of Palestine land after the British mandate.

Two other important issues were also discussed: the relations with Jordan and Palestinian ties with Egypt. The majority was convinced of the need for establishing future ties with Jordan within the framework of a confederation and after the establishment of the Palestinian state. In this context, Habash expressed his views by saying that "we reject, at this stage, any special relation between the Jordanian government and the PLO, especially if it led to another Camp David."

"At this stage, all relations must be between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples. We oppose authorization of King Hussein to speak on our behalf, and I believe the formation of a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation would be very dangerous, as it would mean the beginning of the implementation of the Reagan plan." In this context, it was observed that Arafat, in his inaugural address, concentrated on confederation with Jordan saying that it was an expression of "our belief in comprehensive Arab unity."

As regards relations with Egypt, it has been clearly observed that there was a keen desire for these relations, but there have been differences over the nature and form of these relations. While Arafat is keen on contacts — open or secret — with the Egyptian regime, in addition to strong ties with the Egyptian opposition, several Palestinian organizations oppose any relations or dialogue with the Egyptian regime unless President Hosni Mubarak relinquishes the Camp David accords.

Habash said: "We attach great importance to Egypt and our relations with the nationalist and progressive movements in Egypt must be strengthened. But I oppose any official ties with Mubarak. Let him abandon the Camp David or, at least, let him make us feel that he would gradually get away from it." According to well-informed sources, Arafat himself does not hope that Mubarak would give up the Camp David, but he does hope that the Egyptian president would take "some step" toward or in favor of the PLO. Only then, will there be a powerful and frank dialogue at the highest level between the two parties. (To be continued tomorrow)



Today is Monday, Feb. 28, the 59th day of 1983. There are 306 days left in the year.

Highlights in history on this date:

1594 — Britain's royal physician Roger Lopez is arrested on charge of conspiracy to poison Queen Elizabeth I.

1653 — British fleet defeats Dutch off Portland, England.

1806 — Austria joins Napoleon Bonaparte's "continental system". French forces capture Barcelona, Spain.

1825 — Britain and Russia sign treaty covering respective rights in Pacific Ocean area.

1876 — Carlist war in Spain ends with flight of Don Carlos.

1921 — Russia signs treaties with Afghanistan.

1933 — Nazi decree suppresses civil liberties in Germany.

1942 — Japanese forces land in Java, Indonesia, in World War II.

1956 — India and Indonesia sign mutual aid treaty.

1971 — Cambodia's Premier Lon Nol is treated in U.S. Army Hospital in Hawaii after suffering stroke.

1973 — About 400 American Indians take over South Dakota hamlet of Wounded Knee and hold 10 hostages in effort to negotiate with U.S. government over their grievances.

1976 — U.S. President Gerald Ford denounces Cuba's Premier Fidel Castro as international outlaw for sending 12,000 troops to interfere in Civil War in Angola.

1981 — China's leadership announces new austerity program including sharp cutbacks in government spending.

1982 — Series of four explosions hit New York's Wall Street area, shattering windows and damaging facades of buildings housing several major financial institutions.

Thought for today:

A cheerful friend is like a sunny day, spreading brightness all around — Sir John Lubbock, English astronomer-mathematician (1803-1865).

مكتبة الملك فيصل

Favorite haunt of Arab visitors

London's Park Lane takes a dive

By Michael Constance
London Bureau

LONDON — Everyone who has played the English version of "Monopoly" knows Park Lane. It is the most expensive place on the board. Its real-life reputation is — or was, until recently — the same. The venue of some of the best known hotels in London — the Grosvenor House, the Dorchester and the Hilton — as well as clubs and restaurants, and with a superb view of Hyde Park, it has always been considered one of the capital's bright spots, with the bottom end around the Hilton especially sparkling and full of glitter. For top international businessmen and the wealthier visitor to London, it was invariably the first stop-off after Heathrow Airport. It was, and still is, much favored by Arab visitors, especially those from the Gulf, because of some special facilities to suit their needs — such as Arab news agents and shops with Arabic-speaking staff.

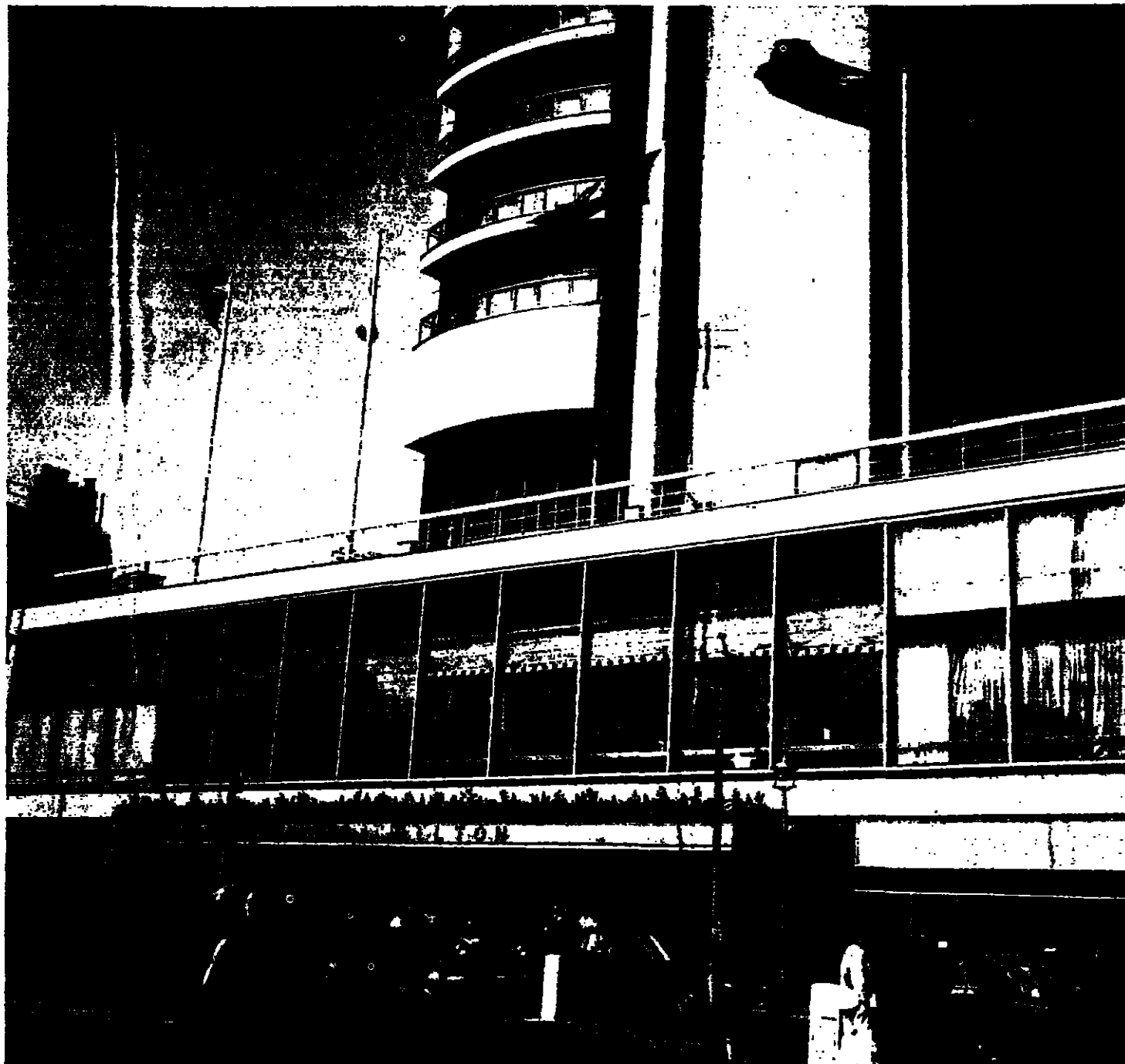
Now, suddenly, the sparkle seems to have gone out of Park Lane's bottom end and it is starting to look decidedly shabby. Next to the Hilton, the Londonderry Hotel has shut up shop while further up the Playboy Club is similarly firmly closed, with dust gathering on the windows. Such prominent closures have had an immediate and staggering effect on what is, after all, quite a small area. The character has changed perceptibly; local residents claim that it is going down-hill. "It's become quite seedy," commented one from Hartford Street, which runs from Shepherd's Market up alongside the Hilton.

Certainly visiting the area Wednesday to investigate, there seemed a certain truth to the claims. The area, where in the seventies the rich flocked and Rolls-Royces and Daimler limousines were two a penny, now looks tired and drab. There was little of the old sparkle. Even the traffic was not thundering past. But then that is an altogether different story. The traffic was there; it just was not moving. A new traffic light system installed last weekend around Hyde Park Corner, always London's most congested roundabout, seems to have fouled up everything. Before the lights went in, traffic was slow but it moved, now it seem to have stopped altogether. There have been strong outcries but whether they have any effect remains to be seen.

The motionless traffic only accentuated the new-found dullness at the bottom of Park Lane which is now taking its toll on local business. Some shops have already closed, another is about to do so and a spokesman for one restaurant commented that the number of customers had dropped so much that they are considering moving out of the area. One or two try to put a brave face on the downturn in trade, such as the manager of a video cassette shop catering to Arab customers. "The area is still alive," he insisted, but then immediately blamed economic events in the Arab world (such as the postulated check crisis in Kuwait) for cutting the number of Arab tourists in London generally.

From the manager of the small news agent a few doors up Park Lane, which seems to sell more Arab newspapers than anywhere else here, there was admission that the bottom of Park Lane is in something of a decline. The reason, he said, is pure and simple — "The clubs have affected trade."

Almost everyone agrees. Almost all the



HILTON: Britain welcomes nearly 12 million overseas visitors a year but London continues to be the biggest single all-year draw. One of the chief attractions for visitors to London is the Park Lane area which houses some of the city's best hotels including the Hilton (above), Intercontinental, Londonderry, Grosvenor House and Dorchester to name only a few.

area's gaming clubs, from the Playboy downwards, have been closed following a spate of investigations into financial irregularities by the Gaming Board. Although only a limited number of people used clubs such as the Playboy, the Curzon and the Hartford, they were responsible for much of the glitter and sparkle in the area. Where the rich congregated, others move in.

Besides the spin-off effects which helped support the area there were also direct benefits for some local businesses. The loss of the Playboy club has caused havoc for one particular restaurant which used to take a lot of custom from those either on their way to or from the club. Despite attempt by Playboy's new owners, Trident Casinos (a subsidiary of Trident Television) to obtain a new license, the likelihood is that they will fail and that in

the end the building will be converted into offices and flats.

A new club has in fact been opened at the Hilton and around the corner in Curzon Street, there will be two more by the end of the year; Crookford's is already operating and John Aspinall's new club at Curzon House is expected to gain a license shortly. However, whether this will inject some sparkle back into the area is another matter. It was not the closure of the gaming clubs that forced the Londonderry Hotel to close down. That was due to the lack of clientele, many of whom were Arabs visiting London for medical treatment. No doubt it will reopen under new management although all the signs are that there are too many hotels here and all far too expensive.

Every area in London has its period. The

Strand, for example, was once the main shopping thoroughfare. Oxford Street now has that honor. Piccadilly Circus and its environs, now the shabbiest and dirtiest place in Central London, used to be the brightest and most exciting. Before World War I, it was the Park Lane of its day. Now, however, drug addicts and peddlers, down-and-outs and an assortment of social dropouts mingle with the West End crowds. The theaters may be there, but their location was chosen in a different age.

No one is suggesting that the bottom of Park Lane is about to become like Piccadilly Circus, but it may be that its time is past. The rich, the famous and the international businessmen are still there but their numbers are thinning and the shabbiness is beginning to show through.

Battle of wits in the British House of Commons

By Robert Glass

LONDON (AP) — Every Tuesday and Thursday, people line up for hours outside the House of Commons to see one of the world's longest-running shows: prime minister's question time.

It is a contest of wits between premier and parliament, performed to a chorus of "hear-hears," "ho-hos" and "for shames" sometimes reaching a deafening pitch. For 15 minutes, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher stands before the Commons' dispatch box and fields questions on everything from the price of meat in Nottingham to naval deployment in the South Atlantic.

The initial question — usually asking the prime minister to list her official engagements for the day — is submitted to the speaker in advance. The follow-ups contain surprises, such as this from opposition Labor Party legislator Frank Dobson one recent day:

"In view of the prime minister's announcement that she subscribes to a lot of Victorian values, could she tell the house which she fancies most: the absence of a national health service, the absence of old-age pensions, the reintroduction of a workhouse or a long series of colonial wars?"

Following rules laid down in the Commons over the past 700 years, query and reply are couched in arch parliamentary language: The persistent adversary is still an "honorable gentleman."

But the courtesy does nothing to diminish the gladiatorial quality of questions and ripostes touching off the government and opposition benches on either side of the mock-Gothic chamber.

Speaker George Thomas, wearing the full-bottomed wig of judicial impartiality, rises from his canopied seat to make frequent pleas for "order, order."

But this is often to no avail, and earlier this month Thomas, a 74-year-old Welshman, gave legislators a public dressing-down, saying the noise had reached an "appalling" level. The object of question time is to hold the government publicly accountable to parliament. But the prime minister has considerable latitude in fashioning a response, and with skill can deflate the most searching of questions.

A recent exchange on reports — later denied — that the Conservative government was planning a \$1.5-million advertising campaign to counter growing anti-nuclear senti-

ment went like this: Laborite Robert Cryer: "Is not the campaign actually a public relations exercise to hide the fact that you are a warmonger in a year that is likely to see an election?"

Mrs. Thatcher: "Mr. speaker, the honorable gentleman is talking his usual rubbish."

Another technique is to parry a troublesome question with a question.

Labor leader Michael Foot: "Can Mrs. Thatcher name any country where steel production is going down faster than in Britain?" Mrs. Thatcher: "Can he quote any steel producer where there was more over-manning than in Britain when we took over?"

The acknowledged master of flipping a question on its head was Sir Winston Churchill. "Is the prime minister aware of the deep concern felt by the people of this country at the whole question of the Korean conflict?" an opposition legislator once asked. "I am well aware," Churchill answered, "of the deep concern felt by the honorable member in many matters above his comprehension."

Historians say question time originated in the late 17th or early 18th century. The first recorded question was in 1721, and had to do with whether the chief cashier of the South Sea Company had absconded to Belgium. In

modern times, question time has become increasingly popular and is broadcast live by radio.

Cabinet ministers age questioned every weekday except Friday, beginning at 2:35 p.m., just after the Commons opens its session. Prime minister's question time begins at 3:15 p.m. and takes place only on Tuesday and Thursday.

In addition to the noise, Speaker Thomas says he is annoyed by the so-called open question, the increasingly popular practice of asking the prime minister to list her official engagements for the day. The technique gets the legislator recognized by the speaker, and he can then ask a follow-up question about a topical issue, possibly something reported in the morning newspapers for which the prime minister wouldn't have had time to prepare.

But Mrs. Thatcher, who always brings a notebook bulging with statistics on many subjects, appears to relish the parliamentary dogfight.

Said one Tory admirer, Geoffrey Dickens: "It is common knowledge in the house and in the country that however difficult questions are, we have a prime minister who will always beat the opposition into the ground."

Like many of his characters

Tennessee Williams had an obsession with death

Every artist, according to Tennessee Williams, should have a basic premise to provide the impulse for everything he writes. The American playwright who died Friday was speaking from his own experience. The dominating premise from which he wrote was the desire to understand those individuals who found themselves in situations similar to cats on hot tin roofs.

NEW YORK (R) — American playwright Tennessee Williams, found dead at the age of 71 in his New York hotel room Friday, had a preoccupation with death like many of his characters. But unlike them he choked to death on a bottlecap of the type used in nasal spray or eye solution dispensers. New York City's chief medical examiner Dr. Elliot Gross said Saturday that an autopsy showed the death appeared to be accidental. As for the bottlecap, Gross did not elaborate.

"Why it was there, I can't say," he said. An empty bottle and some pills were found in the room, according to police, but Gross refused to comment on whether drugs were a factor in the death. Chemical tests would be done over the next few weeks. Gross said Williams, who has been plagued by a history of health problems, was in acceptable physical condition "for a man of his age."

Tennessee Williams will always be remembered for an explosive form of drama, ridden with violence, lust and death which he introduced. It was this which made him one of the greatest playwrights of the 20th century. His plots about hypocrisy and decadence at war with the need for human understanding earned honors for himself and such stars as Marlon Brando and Vivien Leigh.

Almost all his plays were made into films, including *A Streetcar Named Desire*, which won the Pulitzer prize in 1947. *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, which won it in 1954. *The Glass Menagerie* and *The Night of the Iguana*.

For most of his life, the mustachioed writer with sleepy blue eyes suffered ill health. After a breakdown and confinement in a mental home in 1969, he turned to religion for solace.

Williams was born Thomas Lanier Williams on March 26, 1911, in Columbus, Missouri, the son of a shoe salesman. Cornelius Williams, who detested his son and mocked his delicate manners, calling him, "Miss Nancy." His mother, Edwina Dakin, doted on her weak, introverted son.

Tennessee Williams took his first name from his father's forebears who fought against the American Indians and helped settle the state of Tennessee. He once said that Thomas Lanier Williams was "too nice a name. It sounds like it might belong to the sort of writer who turns out sonnet sequences to spring." His first literary award was \$25, from a woman's club for, ironically, writing three sonnets dedicated to spring.

His sister, who suffered a mental illness since childhood, became the model for Laura, the leading part in his first successful play, *The Glass Menagerie*, which won the New York Drama Critics' Award for best play in 1945 and immediately established him as one of America's top dramatists.

Williams' family, usually short of money, moved to St. Louis, Missouri, in hope of better prospects. Tennessee's father worked as a shoe factory. But the young man wrote after work, often going without sleep, and had his first breakdown at the age of 23.

In early childhood, Tennessee had been a victim of diphtheria which left him with a kidney ailment and a form of paralysis for many years. After his breakdown, Tennessee was sent to live with his grandparents in Memphis, Tennessee. He attended a number of universities and obtained an arts degree at the University of Iowa in 1938.

He then went to New York City, where he worked as a lift operator and Broadway theater usher. He held many other menial jobs around the country. During World War II, Williams was rejected as physically unfit for military service because of his weak eyesight.

He kept on writing and within a decade became a wealthy man. But there were constant denials from him that he was a millionaire. He also used to complain about heavy taxes.

Williams owned a house in Key West, Florida, and Tallulah Bankhead's old New York City flat in the Elysee Hotel. It was in that apartment, an exact copy of a Rome hotel suite which he liked — even to the brass bed — that he was found dead.

Success did not come easily. With the help of a Rockefeller fellowship, he wrote his first play, *Battle of Angels*, in 1940. But it closed in Boston during a tryout before getting to Broadway. Seventeen years later, he rewrote it under the title *Orpheus Descending*.

He kept on writing in the early 1940s with the financial aid of a six-month contract in Hollywood. There, with little film work to do, he wrote *The Glass Menagerie*. His response to its success was to return to the south and work on *A Streetcar Named Desire*, a story about the disintegration of a southern belle, which won an even greater acclaim in 1947.

Marlon Brando scored a major success as the original Stanley Kowalski in the Broadway production of *Streetcar*, a role which he repeated in the film version. In 1948, Broadway showed less enthusiasm for *Summer and Smoke*, again a play of passion about a southern woman. But Williams received wide acclaim in 1951 for *The Rose Tattoo* and in 1953 for *Camino Real*.

Two years later, he won more awards for *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, the major event of the Broadway theatrical season. Other successes on stage and screen followed. They included *Suddenly Last Summer*, *Sweet Bird of Youth*, *Period of Adjustment* and *The Night of the Iguana*.

Williams published a novel, *The Roman Spring of Mrs. Stone*, in 1950. It was made into a film and he also scripted another film, *Baby Doll*. The script for *Boom*, which starred Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton was also by him. It was released in 1968 and failed financially.

Williams summed up his success by saying that every artist must have a basic premise to provide the impulse for everything he writes. "For me, the dominating premise has been the need for understanding and tenderness and fortitude among individuals trapped by circumstance," he said.

In London, Peter Hall, director of Britain's national theater and a friend of Williams since 1957, said his death was "a tragic and too early loss of one of the greatest American dramatists of all time."

"It's not just the passing of a great American playwright, but the passing of a great American poet," said Paul Newman, who starred in the film version of *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. "We are all diminished by his death," said Marlon Brando.

In an interview last May, Williams had this to say of critics: "My advice to playwrights is not to read notices if they can avoid it. I'm too curious not to read them, but I've reached the point where I don't feel that vulnerable. I just say, oh well, I gotta get to work again."

Williams was involved in controversy last year when a play he was commissioned to write for Miami's New World Festival of the Arts, called "Now, the Cats with Jeweled Claws," was turned down as unsuitable for performance. It was only 44 pages long — less than an hour on stage — and was "weak dramatically and needed reworking," according to festival director Robert Herman.

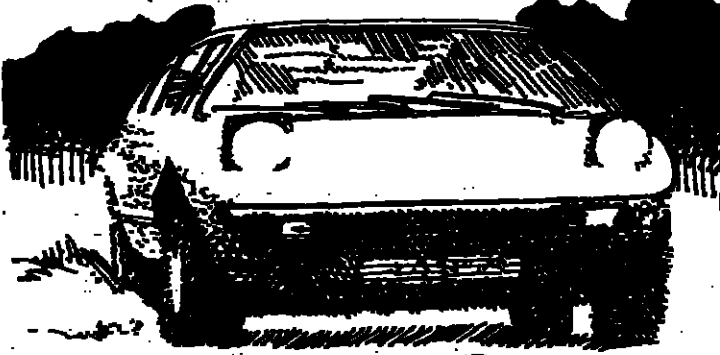
Williams is survived by his sister Rose, a patient at a psychiatric center in New York state, and by a brother.

SELF-SERVICING

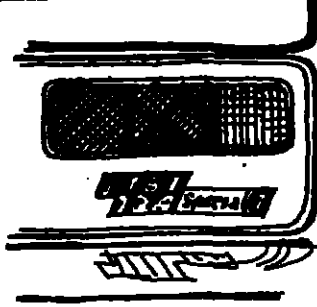
WRITTEN & DRAWN BY BILL CALDWELL

CHECKING THE LIGHTS

EIGHT OUT OF TEN CARS HAVE SOME SORT OF LIGHTING FAULT. SO IT'S MORE THAN LIKELY THAT YOU ARE DRIVING AROUND CAUSING SOME DANGER BECAUSE OF A FAILED LIGHT OR DANGER AND DISCOMFORT BECAUSE OF A BADLY ADJUSTED ONE. BEFORE YOU TAKE THE CAR OUT AGAIN, CHECK IF YOUR HEADLIGHTS, FLASHERS, STOPLIGHTS AND REFLECTORS ARE



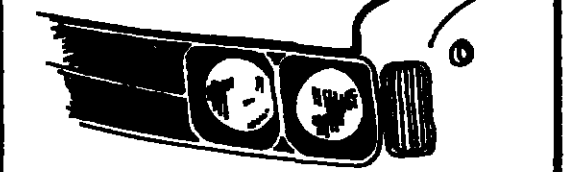
CLEAN AND IN GOOD WORKING ORDER



FLASHERS FRONT AND REAR SHOULD BE CLEAN AND BRIGHT AND, BY LAW, MUST FLASH BETWEEN 60 AND 120 TIMES A MINUTE

STOP LIGHTS TEST THEM WITH HELP FROM A FRIEND OR BACK UP TO THE GARAGE DOOR AND WATCH FOR A REFLECTED GLOW AS YOU PRESS THE BRAKE PEDAL

REAR LIGHTS USUALLY INCORPORATING A REFLECTOR, LIKE THE OTHERS MUST BE CLEAN AND IN WORKING ORDER EVEN IN DAYLIGHT



HEADLIGHTS — A FAILED LAMP THESE DAYS USUALLY MEANS THE REPLACEMENT OF A COMPLETE UNIT. NOT DIFFICULT BUT PROPER ADJUSTMENT IS CRITICAL. TEST MAIN BEAM BY MARKING THE POSITION OF LAMPS WITH CHALK WITH THE CAR AGAINST A WALL. REVERSE 25 FT. STRAIGHT BACK OVER LEVEL GROUND. CENTRES OF LIGHT SHOULD BE JUST BELOW THE CHALK MARKS.

STOP KILLING YOURSELF

MEDICAL TREATMENT FOR ANGINA?

By Peter J. Steiner M.D., F.A.C.P.

Dear Dr. Steiner: I'm now a coronary patient. I've always prided myself on my trim waistline and physical fitness. But now, at the age of 46, I find I need to pull in my sails. I'll admit that smoking two packs a day for over 25 years hasn't helped my arteries. Golfing has been my hobby for years. At first, I resisted using a golf car. I walked while others rode. Then, because of chest pains, I surrendered. I took to the car. But I even had pains when I walked from car to the ball. My doctor tells me he wants to do special X-ray tests to check on my coronary arteries. The question is this: suppose they're bad? Is bypass surgery the only answer? I hear that newer heart drugs do a good job in controlling the pain. — Mr. G.

Dear Mr. G.: It will all depend upon how "nice" the pictures turn out to be. Arteriography will visualize your coronary arteries. If they're "bad" — several of the large arteries non-functioning or poorly functioning — perhaps the only correct decision is to have bypass coronary surgery to bring needed circulation to the heart muscle. What to do or not to do will depend upon your cardiologist and heart surgeon.

A few years back, there was often only one choice: surgery. If nitroglycerine and related drugs didn't control the anginal attacks, operation was the only way out. But lately, we have newer drugs to fall back on. They are called beta blockers and calcium channel blockers. They lower myocardial oxygen demand and lessen coronary spasm. And, therefore, reduce anginal attacks. But ultimate decision, surgery or medical treatment, will depend upon the condition of your coronary arteries.

MEDICALETTERS

(Replies to and from readers):

For Mr. Y.: Having a colostomy doesn't mean you'll have to give up your favorite sports of swimming and golf. But it makes sense not to engage in contact sports such as football and baseball. At age 42, I doubt that you'll be a candidate for such sports.

Dear Dr. Steiner: What is all this fuss about taking antacids? Whenever I take one or two, a friend is always after me, warning that they may be harmful. Is this true? — Mrs. K.

Dear Mrs. K.: Only your doctor can decide. For example, if you have hypertension, some antacids contain sodium — which may be harmful for patients with high blood pressure. So may the sugar in some tablets be contraindicated for some diabetics. However, for most healthy persons, I doubt that taking an antacid occasionally is harmful.

Dear Dr. Steiner: What happens when a person with hemophilia has to have an operation? Acute appendicitis, for example? Isn't he sure to bleed to death? — Mrs. K.

Dear Mrs. K.: It's evident that surgery may produce serious complications in a patient who bleeds as easily as a hemophiliac. But a product is available that lessens the tendency to bleeding. It is called antihemophilic factor and is derived from normal human blood plasma. Unfortunately, it is not helpful in all hemophilic patients.

(Tomorrow: What is wrong with a crash diet?)

To limit exports

EEC pressure on Japan smacks of protectionism

BRUSSELS, Feb. 27 (R) — The European Economic Community has just convinced Japan to restrict its exports to the 10-nation bloc but behind the smiles lies a nagging sense of unease over this latest example of managed trade.

Count Otto Lambsdorff, the West German economy minister, told community foreign ministers when they agreed to accept the deal that it included unnecessary products and smacked of too much protectionism.

He is not alone in his concern. Top commission officials, including some involved directly in the negotiations last week in Tokyo, say this form of managed trade, which flies in the face of free-trade principles, is a dangerous precedent.

The officials, who asked not to be named, say the community is the largest trader in the world and initiatives by it to reduce the flow of goods could do it harm in the long run.

Still others point to a quite different problem — they say the accord has several grey areas which will require further consultation and possible changes in commitments by both sides.

These two concerns, one about the very nature of the accord and the other about its specific contents, illustrate the differences within the community about how to deal with its declining industry and soaring unemployment.

On one side are the free traders, led by the

U.S. gas price curbs may go

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27 (AFP) — U.S. President Ronald Reagan said he will ask Congress to relax natural gas price controls, and to remove them entirely by 1986, in order to assure "abundant supplies at reasonable prices."

"The American consumer is being hurt by government regulations that contribute to higher gas bills," the president said in his weekly radio address.

He said he would introduce legislation aimed at removing minimum price limits to give gas suppliers a freer hand in negotiating contracts. On the other hand, suppliers would be allowed to raise their prices only to the limits of the inflation rate, except where specifically authorized by the government.

"Today, there are surpluses of natural gas, and oil prices are dropping," said Reagan.

West Germans, who say the only way for industry to prosper is to submit it to the laws of the trade jungle — the fittest will survive.

On the other side are the trade managers, led by the French, who say the difficulty of penetrating Japanese markets, the work and pay conditions there and the reduced transport costs worldwide are bringing about the end of European industry and something drastic has to be done.

This view has clearly won out for the moment in the new deal with Japan. The accord calls on Japan to hold back on exports of 10 products, including video cassette recorders, color television sets and tubes, cars, quartz watches and certain trucks for three years. In exchange, the community has undertaken to "withdraw as soon as possible all inappropriate measures" against Japan.

These include anti-dumping suits against Japanese video recorders and France's attempt to limit the entry of such products by forcing them all through the town of Poitiers.

But French Trade Minister Michel Jobert said that if Japan's \$14 billion trade surplus with the Common Market continued to go up, he would introduce similar measures for other products in other towns.

There are currently about 200,000 Japanese video recorders sitting in boxes at Poitiers awaiting customs clearance. The French want those included in the ceiling imposed in the deal but the Japanese disagree.

"But bureaucratic regulations have prevented the industry from lowering the price."

He said the decontrol measures he was proposing should allow a gas price reduction of 10 to 30 cents per 1,000 cubic feet. Legislation passed in 1978 provided for a gradual lifting of gas price controls, but at a far slower rate than that proposed by the president.

Reagan said the lifting of gas price controls would have the same effect as that of oil price controls. "The price has gone down, not up, since deregulation," he said.

The message aimed to answer consumer protection groups which have charged that deregulation of petroleum products, put into effect shortly after Reagan entered the White House has favored only the oil companies and brought no price cuts for the consumer.

Poor demand hits Gulf tanker mart

LONDON, Feb. 27 (AFP) — The announcement that Nigeria was cutting its oil price by \$5.5 a barrel failed to stimulate demand out of West Africa on the tanker market this week.

Brokers said that potential oil customers were adopting a "wait-and-see" attitude in the expectation that other oil producers would also cut their prices.

Only one contract was reported to have been concluded — for a 20,000-tonner carrying a dirty cargo to the west at worldwide 105.

The Gulf area was particularly badly hit by poor demand. An order for 175,000 tons of crude oil to Taiwan was accepted at worldwide 22, down from 25 at the beginning of the month.

Some contracts were concluded in the clean sector at rates around worldwide 65 for Western and 90 for Eastern destinations.

A variety of business was again apparent in the Mediterranean, where a 60,000-tonner won an improved rate of worldwide 60 for a cargo to east Mediterranean/U.K./continent and a 100,000-tonner was had at worldwide 40 for a cross-Mediterranean voyage.

L.American plan to tide over crisis

CARTAGENA, Colombia, Feb. 27 (R) — Latin American leaders have drawn up a plan to reform international financial organizations and help pull the region out of its economic crisis, according to a report released here.

The report, issued at the end of a two-day meeting of Latin American foreign ministers, said the plan would be presented at a meeting in Buenos Aires next month of the group of 77, the group of developing countries in the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

The meeting will lay the basis for the group's policies toward industrialized nations at the next UNCTAD conference in Belgrade later this year.

The report blamed the industrialized nations for Latin America's economic troubles and urged them to give the Third World a greater say in decisions affecting their products.

Copper prices surge as gold plummets

LONDON, Feb. 27 (AFP) — Sharp fluctuations hit several commodity markets this week as nerves tightened after Nigeria cut its oil price by \$5.5 per barrel.

As a result, gold tumbled, and sterling slipped to its lowest in four and a half years against the dollar.

New York got off to a slow start because of the U.S. public holiday on Monday to commemorate George Washington's birthday. The pound's weaker tone against the dollar provided support in places.

But the New York gold price dipped \$18 an ounce (3.6 percent) when the market opened Tuesday, provoking a spate of nervous selling, and sterling's trade-weighted index hit its lowest since June 1978.

However, a general feeling that markets had been over-sold, particularly those for base metals, led to a subsequent, though limited rally.

Pertamina falls deeply in the red

JAKARTA, Feb. 27 (AFP) — Indonesia's state oil company, Pertamina, has been in financial difficulties for several months largely because of falling oil sales, and is now \$200 million behind in its payments, reliable sources say here.

Indonesia is the fifth biggest producer in the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), and is the biggest oil exporter in Asia. Oil revenues account for 70 percent of its budget revenue, but the government is believed to be seeking a \$600 million loan from the International Monetary Fund following the sharp fall in oil prices.

However, the problems now experienced by Pertamina have nothing in common with the corruption and bad management in 1975 which brought the company to the verge of bankruptcy.

The firm's public relations director, M.H. Mufit, told the press Thursday that in three government refinancing projects, Pertamina was merely carrying out government projects. He added that the government had several billion dollars in the bank.

Payments have been delayed mainly to the U.S. Bechtel Corporation, the U.S. Fluor

Weekly commodities

Copper prices surge as gold plummets

Cooper reached its highest since April 1980, as did aluminum. Tin benefited from sustained intervention by the Tin Council's buffer stock manager, and forward metal touched record levels.

Gas-oil recovered from record lows at the start of the week, while the rubber futures market recorded its highest in nearly three years.

Gold: Easier. Things were steady but quiet at first because of the U.S. holiday. Then there was a sharp two-day drop of \$31 on Tuesday and Wednesday in the wake of New York as the precious metals market fell prey to expectations of oil price cuts that would cut back inflationary pressures.

Silver: Easier. Price fluctuated in line with gold after a steady start because of the 1,260,000-ounce fall in stocks on the London Metal Exchange (LME) to 33,520,000 ounces, the lowest since mid-November

Eastern firm, and the Spanish Technicas Reunidas Centuria company, which are building three refineries costing a total of \$3 billion.

But Pertamina has not kept to agreed payments deadlines during several months because it has a cash problem.

The ministry of finance, which does not have good relations with Pertamina, recently demanded urgent payment of overdue tax liabilities totaling about a billion dollars.

An expert who is close to the company commented that the payments problem did not threaten the firm itself, but was more a problem for the state, which was trying to delay currency outflows as much as possible.

Indonesia's public and private debts total \$26 billion, and the balance of payments deficit is estimated to be \$7.5 billion for the fiscal year from April 1, 1982 to 31 March 1983.

Reliable sources have said that overdue payments will be made as soon as possible.

The Pertamina president, Brigadier General Judo Sumbono, is in the United States for talks with his main customers and suppliers, oil sources said.

1982. There were subsequent falls of up to 51 pence / ounce, though a rally occurred in the wake of base metals, particularly copper.

Copper: Firmer. Prices were steady at the outset due to sterling's weaker trend and despite a rise in LME stocks for the 20th consecutive week that took them up 3,375 tons to 296,100 tons, their highest since February 1979. Speculative buying then pushed prices up to their highest since March 1980 despite price cuts by the U.S. producer Asarco. The speculation was prompted by rumors of Chinese buying, continued unrest in Peruvian mines and hopes of an early world economic recovery.

The firmer. Forward values rose to record levels, and cash prices advanced strongly under the influence of good buffer stock buying by the tin council in both London and the Far East. The tendency was also helped by sterling's early weakness against the U.S. dollar despite the drop in gold. Stocks rose 910 tons to 33,755 tons, their highest since October 1982.

Zinc: Quietly steady. Initial encouragement came from the 1,200-ton fall in stocks to 91,100 tons. Values then held steady in line with copper, despite news of a two-cent price cut from the United States.

Aluminum: Volatile. The market reached its highest in nearly three years because of initial good mined buying and the 3,125-ton drop in stocks from last week's record level to 262,100 tons. Further gains occurred in an active market before they were wiped out in gold's fall. But a strong rally in union with copper took prices to their highest since March 1980.

Nickel: Irregular. After a quiet but firmer start in line with other metals, prices fell with gold in a neglected market before steadying again with copper and aluminum. Stocks fell 42 tons to 9,018 tons. Merchants quoted \$1.95/2.25 (against \$2.02/2.32) per pound.

Other metals: Platinum eased to \$446.25 (against \$472.75) or 292.45 (against 306.70) pounds per ounce. Quicksilver added \$10 all round to \$340/350 per 76 / pound flask. Unchanged were wolfram at \$80/85 per metric ton unit of 10 kilos, and cobalt at \$5.40/5.60 per pound.

مركز التعليم

But fears persist

It's spring for U.S. economy

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27 (Agencies) — The outlook for the United States economy is continuing to improve, pushing Wall Street to record levels, but there are fears about inflation and that a chaotic weakening of oil prices could threaten American banks.

Meanwhile, the average American and particularly the 11.4 million people without work, remain skeptical about an improvement, particularly as most economists warn that the upturn will be short-lived and that unemployment will remain high for several months to come.

Nevertheless, industrial output rose by 0.9 percent in January, the construction and auto industries continued to improve their performance, orders for durable goods rose 4.5 percent in January, inflation remained at the low level of 0.2 percent during the month, and the prime interest rate has again fallen from 11 to 10.5 percent — the lowest level since 1978. And in the last few days it has become likely that oil prices will fall sharply.

However Treasury Secretary Donald Regan and Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker, together with many businessmen, have expressed some caution about the good news.

Regan has said that while the upturn has begun in the United States, a disorderly

reduction in oil prices could cause disruptive upheaval both there and elsewhere. The frontline victims would be American banks and several oil-exporting countries, notably Mexico.

Volcker has warned that the "Fed" has little room to help the economy improve without putting at risk progress made in the fight against inflation.

Treasury Undersecretary Beryl Sprinkel and several bankers hold that the Fed has already authorized an excessively large increase in the money supply.

Meanwhile Time magazine said its board of economists are predicting a stronger recovery in the U.S. economy this year than was forecast only a few weeks ago. But they are less confident about economic prospects beyond

this year.

The board said real growth in gross national product, after adjustment for inflation, could be in the four to five percent range through 1983, compared with a 2.5 percent decline in the last quarter of 1982. But it was not as optimistic about prospects beyond 1983 because of growing federal budget deficits.

The White House has forecast a 3.1 percent growth rate for 1983. Time noted in the report in its latest edition.

Alice Rivlin, director of the Congressional Budget Office and a guest participant, warned that unless Congress cut spending or raised taxes, the budget deficit would grow from \$194 billion this year to \$267 billion by 1988.

Quito to unveil austerity steps

QUITO, Feb. 27 (AFP) — Ecuador, a member of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), is expected to introduce new severe economic measures on Tuesday to cope with an economic crisis caused by world recession and the slump in oil prices.

It is believed the measures will be aimed at winning the approval of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) thus opening the way for a consortium of foreign banks to refinance short-term public debts of \$1.2 billion.

The proposed measures are a well kept secret, but the worst rumors here talk of another devaluation and an increase in the price of petrol.

The last round of measures introduced in October, which included fuel price increases, caused a general strike and serious unrest resulting in military intervention and the declaration of a state of emergency.

It appears that the government is expecting more trouble as police and military controls on the outskirts of major towns have been

increased. In addition, reliable sources say that President Oswaldo Hurtado has met leading media figures to advise them to exercise prudence and moderation in their handling of the news.

But unions have already indicated that they are ready for a general strike if the measures are unduly tough, and particularly if they include another devaluation of the sucre.

The country earns 60 percent of its export revenue through the sale of oil but falling oil exports have resulted in a reduction in central bank reserves from \$210 million in December to \$157 million in January.

Companies are experiencing increasing difficulty in obtaining external credits and are waiting for the government to provide a way of financing private debts.

Under a devaluation in May 1982, the official exchange rate was fixed at 33 sucres to the dollar, but on the free market last week the rate rose to the record high level of 75 sucres to the dollar.

BRIEFS

COPENHAGEN (AFP) — Denmark's balance of payments deficit on current account totaled 20 billion kroner (about \$2.37 billion) in 1982 against 12.5 billion (\$1.47 billion) in 1981, official figures showed. In 1982 Denmark's external debts rose by 30 billion kroner (\$3.52 billion) to 155 billion kroner (\$18.23 billion).

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The U.S. government has refused Air Canada the right to fly passengers to the United States at reduced rates. The airline has sold 56,000 tickets at 30 percent below the cheapest normal rate. "We cannot allow Canadian carriers to dictate fare levels unilaterally in any major markets," the Civil Aeronautics Board said.

OTTAWA (AFP) — Firms seeking Indonesian equipment orders must bow to legislation under which supplier companies are partially paid in kind, the Foreign Ministry said. A Dozen Canadian companies are angling for rail equipment and other orders under a \$2 billion Indonesia mining program. Under Indonesian law, suppliers who fail to provide more than \$800,000 financing must be paid in palm oil, rubber and other goods.

THE HAGUE (AFP) — The Netherlands had a trade surplus of 300 million guilder (about \$110 million) in December and a surplus of 9.80 billion guilder for the whole of 1982, provisional official figures showed.

MPs to vote on EEC food aid for Hanoi

BRUSSELS, Feb. 27 (AFP) — The Eurogroup Parliament will vote in Strasbourg on March 10 on whether the European Economic Community (EEC) should resume food aid to Vietnam.

The vote will climax verbal clashes between European MPs. Some contend that the EEC should not make Vietnamese people go hungry to punish their government. But other MPs say that if Hanoi can afford to maintain 250,000 soldiers in Cambodia and Laos, it should not need European food.

The EEC executive commission here has indicated it will probably follow the parliament's food recommendation, whatever it is.

The parliament's working group on human rights will consider an unfavorable report on Vietnam by a Dutch Member of the Parliament Mrs. Ien Van Den Heuvel.

She charges that Vietnamese "re-education camps" are a "flagrant violation of human rights" containing 126,000 prisoners rather than the 25,400 reported by the Hanoi government.

Medical care is inadequate and the internees lack the right to "fair public" trials, Mrs. Van Den Heuvel reported. "The Vietnamese press is strictly controlled by the government, and freedom to hold meetings and form associations is non-existent."

Soviet banks adopt 'capitalist' gimmick

MOSCOW, Feb. 27 (R) — Soviet savings banks are offering customers the chance to win a car in an unusual experiment aimed at raising money for cash-starved local government authorities, the trade union daily *Trud* reported Sunday.

Under the scheme, being tested in Soviet Tadzhikistan, the customer puts a minimum of 2,650 roubles (\$5,090) into a special interest-free lottery account for at least six months. The account holders' names are then put into a regular draw for a Lada saloon car with a 200-to-one chance of winning.

Soviet motorists often have to wait years to buy a car and the report said the scheme had been an instant success. A total of about 5,000 people have taken part in the scheme so far, and deposits now amount to nearly 17 million roubles (\$23 million), it added.

Trud said the lottery was intended to raise extra money for local investment projects for which the authorities did not have enough cash. It indicated that the scheme could soon be extended to cover the whole country.

Financial Roundup

Riyal rates drop slightly

By J.H. Hammond

JEDDAH, Feb. 27 — The Sunday local markets opened and closed on a dull trading note with most institutions leaving early for the day. With the European markets closed for business and most of the OBU's — Bahrain based offshore banking units — have covered themselves Saturday, the level of Sunday dealing tended to be erratic.

Despite some deals in short-dated funds and some commercial exchange activity, Jeddah based banks reported that few dealers were willing to take up positions until they had analyzed how the European markets would open Monday. Their cautiousness is understandable given the open wide fluctuations seen over the weekend on the exchange markets and the last minute cut in their prime lending rates by the U.S. commercial banks.

After having remained relatively calm for most of the week, the money markets seem to be entering a period of turmoil and U.S. dollar interest rates have eased back by ¼ percent compared to levels the previous weekend close. The dollar's fall on the money markets has been mirrored on the domestic markets where rial deposit rates have fallen by as much as ½-¾ percent in the short and medium-dated funds.

The week-fixed traded around the 6½ percent level from 6¼-7 percent a few days back, while the one-month JIBOR was trading at under 7 percent Sunday compared with 7¼ percent Thursday closing. Once again dealing has tended to bunch in the shorter-dated funds.

On the exchanges, spot rial/dollar rates were unusually active at 3.4400-05 but the volumes were mostly of commercial origin and fairly small.

Brazil launches anti-inflation drive

RIO DE JANEIRO, Feb. 27 (AFP) — The Brazilian government has launched an economic "war" to control inflation and to meet its obligations to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) as the economic crisis here worsens.

Brazil, which was having difficulty meeting loan repayments this year on both the \$4.7 billion debt principal and on its short-term trading debt of \$8.8 billion, has obtained credits amounting to 97 and 82 percent respectively from international banks.

The foreign debt totaled \$68.4 billion, plus \$12.5 billion in short and medium-term loans. The authorities are also hoping to obtain shortly interbank credit lines for 1982 totaling \$10 billion.

Public concern was reflected at the weekend by an editorial in a leading daily the *Journal do Brasil*, which said "the nation has plunged into an economic nightmare."

The public has been treated for some time now to daily headlines speaking of little but the crisis. The government recently devalued the cruzeiro by 30 percent, and last week acknowledged the first setback in its anti-inflation program.

The monetary authorities had set as their first target the reduction of the inflation rate from 103 percent in the last 12 months to 70 percent in 1983. But officials responsible for the plan now estimate that the 1983 rate will be nearer 90 percent.

Planning Minister Antonio Delfim Netto told Brazilian journalists in New York where he had gone to sign a loan of \$4.46 billion, that the devaluation would mean that inflation would be higher than expected, but that it would be lower than last year.

Two weeks before parliament resumes its meetings, a member of the minority pro-

government Social Democratic Party, Herbert Levy, has warned that ministers responsible for the economy have lost all credibility. This in turn could undermine the authority of President Joao Baptista Figueiredo, he added.

The government's latest move in its economic campaign has been the introduction of price controls on 273 products and services. The controls will last for six months, but economists doubt whether there is the machinery throughout the control to enforce this program effectively.

In addition, the controls affect only 15 food items, while the price of milk will rise by 32 percent on March 1 and another increase is expected on June 1. The price of one of the main ingredients of the national diet, black beans, has risen by about 30 percent in the last few days.

Meanwhile, several firms are in financial difficulties and have had to cut their labor force.

Chrysler chinks up \$170 million profit

HIGHLAND PARK, Michigan, Feb. 27 (AFP) — Chrysler, the third biggest auto manufacturer in the United States, chalked up a \$170.1 million profit last year, its first annual profit since 1977, Chrysler has announced. In 1981 the firm ended up with a \$475.6 million loss.

Chrysler attributed the profit largely to the sale of its military vehicle plant for \$239 million last year.

It reported a loss of \$96.1 million in the last quarter of 1982 resulting from the strike of 10,000 workers in Chrysler's Canadian plants.

Foreign Exchange Rates

Quoted at 6:00 p.m. Saturday

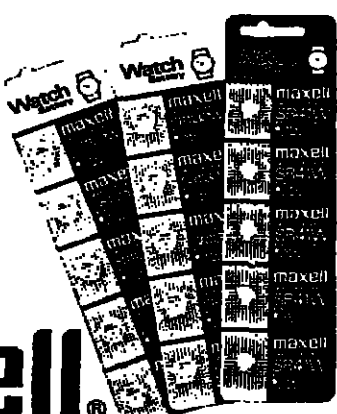
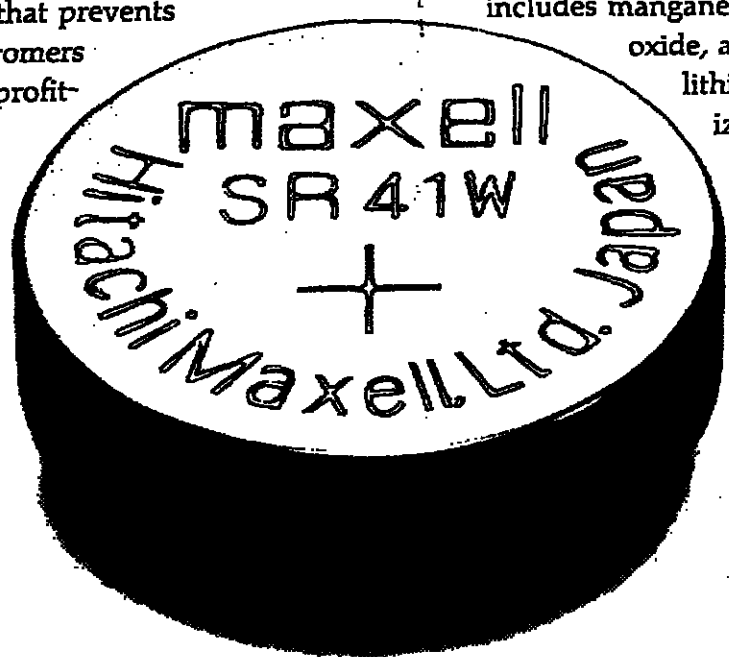
	Cash	Transfer
Bahian Dinar	9.25	9.15
Bangladesh Taka	14.20	14.30
Belgian Franc (1,000)	74.00	72.68
Canadian Dollar		2.82
Deutsche Mark (100)	143.25	142.90
Dutch Guilder (100)	130.00	129.48
Egyptian Pound	3.15	3.11
Emirate Dirham (100)	93.75	93.75
French Franc (100)	50.75	50.46
Greek Drachma (1,000)	38.25	41.55
Indian Rupee (100)		34.65
Iranian Rial (100)		
Israeli Lira (10,000)	24.90	24.80
Japanese Yen (1,000)	15.30	14.75
Korean Dollar	9.75	9.68
Kuwaiti Dinar	11.88	11.82
Lebanese Lira (100)	85.86	85.52
Moroccan Dirham (100)	52.50	54.19
Pakistani Rupee (100)	28.10	26.95
Philippine Peso (100)		36.62
Portuguese Escudo (100)	5.30	5.27
Qatari Riyal (100)	95.00	94.70
Singapore Dollar (100)		166.85
Spanish Peseta (1,000)		26.57
Sri Lankan Rupee (100)	170.00	169.85
Syrian Lira (100)	62.00	61.60
Turkish Lira (1,000)		
U.S. Dollar	3.45	3.44
Yemeni Rial (100)	75.15	75.15

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After being restricted to 3-run lead

Windies pacemen strike back

KINGSTON, Jamaica, Feb. 27 (AP) — India and the West Indies continued their tense struggle with neither team gaining the ascendancy on the third day of the first cricket Test match here Saturday.

The West Indies gained an immaterial first innings lead of three runs when they carried their score from 149 for four wickets at the

start to 254 in reply to India's 251. Then, after having the trauma of losing their best batsman, Sunil Gavaskar, spectacularly bowled first ball of the innings by Michael Holding, India reached 81 for three wickets by the end of play — a lead of 78 with seven wickets standing.

With the pitch still playing easily, India will

Score-board

India (1st innings):	251	6-185, 7-228, 8-244, 9-254.	
West Indies (1st innings):		Bowling: Kapil Dev 25-3-66-1; Sandhu 11-4-30-0;	
G. Greenidge c Venkatraghavan b Shastri	70	Venkatraghavan 23-6-45-4; Mansinder 31-6-51-0;	
D. Haynes c Amarnath b Kapil Dev	27	Shastri 24-8-43-4.	
V. Richards c Venkatraghavan b Shastri	29	India (2nd innings):	
L. Gomes c Yashpal b Shastri	4	S. Gavaskar b Holding	0
A. Logic run out	13	A. Gaekwad c Greenidge b Marshall	23
C. Lloyd b Venkatraghavan	24	M. Amarnath c Garner b Marshall	40
J. Dujon b Kapil Dev	29	D. Vengsarkar batting	4
M. Marshall c Yashpal b Kapil Dev	23	Y. Sharma batting	8
A. Roberts c Sandhu b Shastri	17	Extras:	81
M. Holding c Kirmani b Kapil Dev	1	Total: (for 3 wks.)	
J. Garner not out	0		
Extras:	19		
Total:	254		
Fall of wickets: 1-36, 2-83, 3-91, 4-114, 5-157,	5-157,		
		Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-68, 3-169.	
		Bowling: Holding 6-3-7-1; Roberts 10-2-21-0; Mar-	
		shall 10-2-34-2; Garner 4-1-7-0; Gomes 2-0-4-0.	



Kapil ... wipes out tail



Shastri ... does early damage

Mandeville corners limelight

MIAMI, Florida, Feb. 27 (AP) — Roger Mandeville drove a Mazda RX-7 to an easy victory Saturday in the Budweiser Grand Prix of Miami 100-kilometer GTU-Division Sports Car race.

The 62-mile (99.7 km) event for the least powerful of the International Motor Sports Association Camel GT series cars was the inaugural event on the 1.85-mile course that winds through the streets of downtown Miami.

Mandeville, who picked up \$7,000 for the victory, crossed the finish line 16.726-seconds ahead of second-place finisher Whitney Ganz in a Toyota Celica. The winner averaged 68.919 mph (110.5 km) in the 34-tap race around the tight, 12-turn course.

Jack Dunham was third in another RX-7, followed by pole-sitter Dennis Aase in a Celica and Charles Morgan in a Datsun ZX. Both Aase and Morgan were a lap down at the end.

Lee Mueller, driving an RX-7, started third and took the lead from Mandeville early in the race with some hard driving. But Mueller lost ground when the car blew both right-side tires and he had to make a long pit stop.

He wound up 10th.

This was a preliminary event for Sunday's 100-kilometer GTO-Division race and the featured 500-kilometer (312-mile) GT race for experimental and prototype cars.

In the 500-kilometer race, John Paul Jr., the defending Camel GT driving champion, took the pole position. Driving a Lola T-600 prototype, Paul, 22, cruised through the 1.85-mile (3 km) downtown street course at an average speed of 78.681 mph (126.62 km). It took him just 1 minute, 24.646 seconds to negotiate the narrow, 12-turn circuit.

The other front row starter will be Englishman John Fitzpatrick and David Hobbs in a Porsche turbo 935. Fitzpatrick qualified the car at 1:25.688 (77.724 mph) (125.1 km).

Third was Danny Ongais, who will share Lola T-600 with Ted Field. Ongais was clocked at 1:25.723 (77.692) (125.0). The March 83-G prototype of Al Holbert and Jim Trueman was fourth at 1:25.776 (77.644) (124.9 km), followed by the 935 of Bob Wollek and Michael Andretti at 1:26.214 (77.250) (124.3 km).

need a total of around 300 to present a stiff challenge to the West Indies. So far, they have played far above expectations to pressure the West Indies, acknowledged as the strongest team in international cricket.

They made the West Indies fight all the way for their narrow lead. They quickly broke through the crucial fifth-wicket partnership when West Indies captain Clive Lloyd, trying to cut, played a ball from off-spinner Venkatraghavan into his stumps to be bowled for 24.

Opener Gordon Greenidge, the backbone of the West Indies innings with a patient 70 spanning five hours 20 minutes, left 28 runs later, caught at slip by Venkatraghavan off left-arm spinner Ravi Shastri and, although Jeff Dujon (29), Malcolm Marshall (23) and Andy Roberts (17) contributed valuable runs to the effort, they were not allowed to dominate.

Indian captain Kapil Dev, who took three of the last four wickets in an incisive spell of fast bowling, finished with four wickets for 45 and Shastri took four for 43.

India received an immediate setback when Gavaskar, their heavy-scoring opener, left his leg-stump exposed and had it knocked out of the ground by Holding's first ball. A home town crowd of almost 12,000 erupted in spontaneous jubilation several running onto the ground, but it was another 68 runs before the West Indies got another wicket.

Then fast bowler Malcolm Marshall, bowling from around the wicket, dismissed both Mohinder Amarnath and Anshuman Gaekwad in successive overs. Amarnath, after batting fluently for 40, sliced a catch to Joel Garner at gully, while Gaekwad, after scoring a solid 23, was caught at second slip.

However, Dilip Vengsarkar and Yashpal Sharma batted safely until close of play with the match evenly poised.

Wettimuny scores tour's maiden ton

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, Feb. 27 (AFP) — Sidath Wettimuny became the first Sri Lankan cricketer to score a century in New Zealand when he made 105 in his side's first innings against the Auckland provincial side at Eden Park here Sunday.

It was his second first class hundred, put together with painstaking care from 224 balls in 263 minutes and including 13 fours. Wettimuny was also the first Sri Lankan to score a test century when he hit 157 against Pakistan last summer.

His effort against Auckland came on the second day of a three-day match, as the touring side battled for the full day to reach 302 for the loss of six wickets, easily surpassing Auckland's first innings total of 198.

A perfect batting trip is providing Sri Lanka with valuable batting practice heading up to first Test against New Zealand in five days, and a draw seems inevitable. Auckland captain John McIntyre used no fewer than eight bowlers during the day but there was little reward for them.

Brief scores: Auckland 198 versus Sri Lanka 302 for six (S. Wettimuny 105, R. Madugalle 64, A. de Silva 29, S. Jeganathan 26 not out; Troup two for 42).

Arguello toys with Vilomar for points win

SAN ANTONIO, Texas, Feb. 27 (R) — Alexis Arguello of Nicaragua, coming back after losing his World Boxing Association (WBA) junior welterweight title, scored a unanimous 10-round decision Saturday over Vilomar Fernandez of the United States.

Arguello, who raised his record to 77 wins and five defeats, was fighting for the first time since losing his title to Aaron Pryor of the United States. He was on the attack throughout, chasing Fernandez all around the ring, but had him in trouble only once when he downed him with a right hook in the fourth round.

"I hit him on the chin with a left hand and followed with the right," said Arguello. "He was always running when I hit him. My strategy was to put together punches but that's hard when someone is running."

Fernandez, who outpointed Arguello in a non-title bout in 1978, said: "He won the fight and put more pressure on me." Arguello received \$200,000 for the fight and Fernandez, whose record dropped to 27-10-2, got \$50,000.

U.S. boxers top

Meanwhile, the United States beat the Soviet Union in an amateur boxing match Saturday night in Las Vegas, taking seven of the 12 bouts to record its first win in the series



Arguello ... impressive comeback since 1979 and only its second in the past 10 meetings.

The Soviet Union led 2-0 but U.S. fighters came back to win seven of the next eight bouts in the 119 pound (53.9 kg) to 178 pound (80.7 kg) weight divisions to clinch the victory. Since the series began in 1969, the Soviet Union has won 24 of the previous 28 matches. The seven victories by the United States were the most recorded by a U.S. team in the contest.

The two teams will meet again on Tuesday in Indianapolis, Indiana, and on March 8 in Syracuse, New York.

Red Wings cause a big flutter

NEW YORK, Feb. 27 (AP) — Jim Schoenfeld's first goal of the season with 7:21 left in the game triggered the Detroit Red Wings to a 5-3 National Hockey League triumph Saturday night over the New York Islanders.

In other matches, Jacques Richard and Peter Stastny scored 30 seconds apart midway through the third period to break a 3-3 tie and give the Quebec Nordiques a 6-3 win over the New York Rangers.

Defenseman Mark Hardy scored one goal and assisted on three others, leading the Los Angeles Kings to a 6-2 victory over the Toronto Maple Leafs.

Ken Nilsson scored two goals and added an assist to lead the Calgary Flames to a 7-2 victory over the St. Louis Blues.

Chicago's Darryl Sutter scored a power-play goal with 20 seconds left to give the Black Hawks a 4-4 tie with the Minnesota North Stars. While Pittsburgh Penguins beat the New Jersey Devils 5-4 and the Montreal Canadiens put it across the Washington Capitals 4-1.

Padilla undisturbed by Salazar's boast

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey, Feb. 27 (AP) — Alberto Salazar has vowed to break the world indoor best in the 5,000 meters in the U.S. Olympic Invitational Track and Field Meet Sunday at the Byrne Meadowlands Arena, but Doug Padilla is unwavering.

The little heralded but very successful Padilla is unbeaten in seven races over a mile this season, and last year, he beat Salazar in two of their three indoor meetings. In the 1982 Millrose Games, Padilla cracked Salazar's American indoor 5,000-meter record clocking 13 minutes, 20.55 seconds, just shy of the accepted world indoor best of 13:20.4 set by Sulaiman Nyambui of Tanzania in 1981.

East German Joerg Kunze recorded a 13:13.3 last Sunday at Senenberg, East Germany, but the mark will not be recognized because it was run on an oversized track. The confident Salazar has said he is certain he can break 13:20 Sunday.

"This is the fastest indoor track in the world," said Salazar, the fastest marathoner in history and owner of American outdoor records at 5,000 and 10,000 meters. Salazar had difficulty doing that in last year's Olympic Invitational. He fell on the first lap, but made a remarkable recovery and won the race in 13:23.08.

Padilla, who finished fourth in that race, has been winning consistently this year. He is four-for-four at two miles, including an American record 8:16.5 at San Diego Feb. 18, unbeaten in one race in three miles, 1,000 meters and 5,000 meters, and two-for-three at a mile (1.6-kms), his only loss resulting in a

fifth-place finish at Dallas Feb. 5.

His latest victory came in the three-mile (4.8-kms) Friday night in the USA-Mobil Indoor Championships at Madison Square Garden in New York, where he rallied to beat Sothene Bitok of Kenya in 13:08.00.

"I want Salazar," said the tired but anxious Padilla, the 1981 NCAA two-mile (3.2 kms) champion from Brigham Young University. Padilla added, however, that he wasn't happy about having to run three miles Friday night

and 5,000 meters against the well-rested Salazar Sunday.

"I'm worried about Sunday," he said. "You have to take Alberto seriously. He's tough enough to beat when you're fresh and I won't be that fresh Sunday."

Padilla said he has never run such a demanding double in so short a period of time. "But it's a good opportunity, a good chance to see if I can go against Alberto like this," he said.

Wenz records world best mark

WEST BERLIN, Feb. 27 (R) — West Germany's Siegfried Wenz recorded a world best heptathlon here Saturday, the first to score more than 6,000 points in the seven-discipline event.

Wenz aggregated 6,114 points to surpass the previous world's best of 5,908 set by Poland's Dariusz Ludwig, who had to settle for fifth place. Former decathlon world record holder Guido Kratschmer of West Germany was second with 5,971 points, also beating Ludwig's old mark.

Juergen Hingsen, who last year briefly interrupted Britain's Daley Thompson's reign as decathlon world record holder, retired with an ankle injury which he said was not serious.

The women's pentathlon event was won by West Germany's Monika Krollkewitz with 4,370 points followed by Tineke Hidding of the Netherlands and Simone Marquardt of

West Germany with 4,350 and 4,245 points respectively.

Nakamura, Hart win

Meanwhile, Japan's Takao Nakamura and Ellen Hart of the United States won the men's and women's International Road Races in Nagoya.

Nakamura beat Air Boileau of Canada in winning the men's 30-km (18-mile) road race in one hour 31 minutes 28 seconds, and Hart won the women's 20-km (12-mile) race in one hour eight minutes 58 seconds. Boileau, who won the race last year, finished second in 1:31:45.

Namie Sasaki of Japan placed second in 1:09:00 to beat Alison Rod of New Zealand. Rod, who has the fastest time of two hours 25 minutes 29 seconds in the women's marathon, set in the New York City Marathon in 1981, finished third in 1:09:28.

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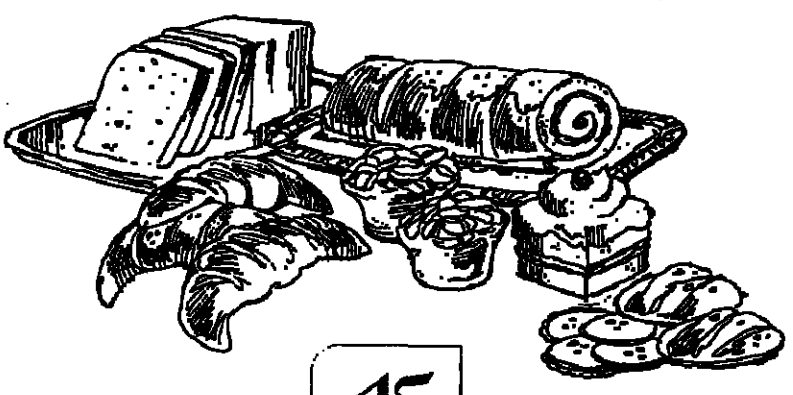
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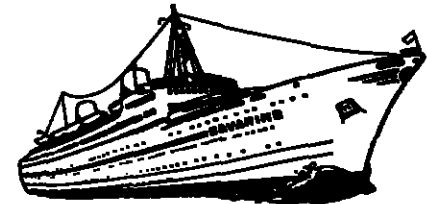
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مركز النقل

Higuera stops giantkiller Bauer

Teltscher grounds high-sailing Noah

LA QUINTA, California, Feb. 27 (AP) — Fourth-seeded Eliot Teltscher upset second-seeded Yannick Noah of France 6-4, 4-6, 6-4 Saturday in a semifinal match of the \$255,000 Congoleum Classic Tennis Tournament.

Teltscher's victory was sweet revenge for the American, who was beaten by the Frenchman at the same stage last year. Teltscher now takes on third-seeded Jose Higueras of Spain, who downed unseeded Mike Bauer for the singles championship on Sunday, weather permitting.

Higuera and Bauer squared off in the other semifinal and the Spaniard needed three hours to quell the resolute challenge of Bauer. Bauer, who had sent top-seeded Jimmy Connors crashing in the second round, looked on the verge of yet another upset when he took the first set at 3-6. But the tenacious Spaniard bounced back to win the next two sets 6-4, 7-5 after a marathon struggle.

The semifinals were delayed over four hours because of rain. The singles champions will collect \$32,000 with the runner-up earning \$16,000.

Meanwhile, No. 2 seed Guillermo Vilas of Argentina overcame blustery cross winds to defeat 26-year-old Tomas Smid 6-1, 6-0 Saturday in the semifinals of the \$300,000 Gold Cup Tournament in Delray Beach, Florida.

"The wind caused me to play it safer than usual," said Vilas. "I kept aiming my long shots two or three feet in front of the base line just in case the wind changed direction with

the ball in flight."

Smid, who had eliminated two seeded players in earlier matches — Johan Kriek and Kevin Curren — proved no match for the determined Vilas. The South African left-hander broke the Czech's service five times and ended the match in 57 minutes.

"I just didn't have the confidence I had in my earlier matches," said Smid, a former Olympic cross country skier. "I missed a lot of easy shots. I just couldn't get set."

Vilas will meet Czechoslovakia's Pavel Slozil, who got past American Eddie Dibbs 6-1, 7-6 in a rain-interrupted tie. "I had it planned," said Vilas. "I knew that Smid likes to come into the net. I concentrated on giving him shots that figured to make him make errors. When he did return the ball, I was able to score by passing him."

In Kuwait, top-seeded Vilas Gerulaitis defeated No. 3 seed Heinz Guenthardt of Switzerland 7-6, 4-6, 6-3 in the men's singles final of the \$75,000 Marriott International Championship Saturday.

Unseeded Ilie Nastase of Romania and Vijay Amritraj of India beat second-seeded Rod Frawley and Brod Dyke of Australia 6-3, 3-6, 6-2 in the double final.

Gerulaitis won the first set tiebreaker 7-4 before dropping the second set to the Swiss. The American led 2-0 in the third, dropped three straight games and then assumed control with a variety of shots.

Gerulaitis broke Guenthardt in the sixth game and held serve at love in the seventh. The American again broke the Swiss in the eighth to win the match.

Seeded pairs make the grade

By Paddy Rogan

JEDDAH, Feb. 27 — Seeded pairs lived up to their expectations in the Air France-Al Bilad Hotel sponsored doubles tennis tournament when they took their appointed places in the semifinals of the tournament that got under way last weekend.

The top-seeded pair of Abastillas and Relleve had little difficulty in making the grade. Their facile 6-0, 6-1 victory over Shakarti and MaAmoun followed a 6-1, 6-4 win over Mishra and Khanzada. But second seeds Reece and Bozarth had to exert themselves for a 7-5, 6-4 win over the newly formed combination of Alizera and Rapp.

The Dave Lindig-John Keith team must surely have asked themselves at least many times what more they had to do to beat the Yanbu pair and third seeds Loayza and Quesada. They had five match points in this quarterfinal match, but failed to grab the clincher. The score of 6-1, 2-6, 7-5 pays tribute to the staying power of the Loayza-Quesada team. A fine match is on the cards for next Thursday when Loayza-Quesada face Reece and Bozarth.

The fourth-seeded pair, Rogan-Cunningham also escaped from a match point situation in their quarterfinal tie against Grejham-Delom. The ability to keep the ball in court with more regularity than their opponents allowed them to slip into the semifinals with a 6-4, 4-6, 7-5 victory and a date with the formidable combination of Abastillas and Relleve.

Tournament directors Allan and Carol James can feel really satisfied with their seeding efforts, for not only are the top four men seeds through to the semifinals, but the ladies seeds too obliged. Top seeds Lindenberg and Innocenti came through without a hitch and will face the Herault-Massuelle pair in the semifinals. A keen tussle is in prospect as the styles of both combinations are similar.

In the other semifinal, the second-seeded Abu-Jaber sisters may face a strong challenge from the Yanbu pair of Hall-Freeman. The form of the young Abu-Jaber sisters is impressive while the lack of form of the Yanbu pair could be misleading.

The semifinals are scheduled for 2.00 p.m. while the finals at 6.00 p.m. March 3.

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Noah ... falters in semi

Bunge, Hanika to clash in final

OAKLAND, California, Feb. 27 (AP) — Bettina Bunge and West Germany's Sylvia Hanika won their matches Saturday night to reach the final of the \$150,000 Virginia Slims of California Tennis Tournament.

Bunge, who is a West German citizen, had a surprisingly easy time against 16-year-old Andrea Temesvari of Hungary, winning 6-1, 6-4. Hanika beat Wendy Turnbull 6-0, 4-6, 6-4.

Temesvari had upset top-seeded Tracy Austin in the quarterfinals Friday night. The sixth-seeded Bunge broke Temesvari in the fifth game of their second set. Temesvari came back from match point twice in the ninth game to prolong the match, but Bunge held serve in the next game to end the match.

Hanika needed only 18 minutes to win the first set, but Turnbull turned the game around with strong serves to win the second. The only service break in the third set was in the first game, which went to deuce twice.

Turnbull failed to cash in on eight break points in the third set. Six of those came in the sixth game, which Hanika won to go ahead 4-2. Turnbull, a 30-year-old Australian, was the top seed to reach the semifinals, being seeded fourth. Hanika is the No. 5 seed.

Lufthansa tennis

Riyadh Bureau

RIYADH, Feb. 27 — Top players will be seen in action in the Lufthansa-Intercontinental sponsored fifth annual Tennis Tournament conducted under the aegis of the Riyadh Tennis Federation, to be held from March 4 to 18.

Richard Barrett, along with Prince Muteb ibn Abdullah ibn Abdul Aziz and Relleve, start as favorites in the competition. The total number of entrants are 160, and they have been clubbed in the men's singles 'A' and 'B' flights and Ladies singles 'A' and 'B' flights.

English soccer standings

English Division One										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
Liverpool	28	19	6	3	65	23	63			
Wolverhampton	27	15	4	8	49	28	49			
Man. United	27	13	9	5	37	21	48			
Nottingham Forest	28	13	6	9	42	34	45			
Aston Villa	28	13	3	12	40	37	42			
Coventry	28	12	6	10	39	37	42			
Everton	28	11	7	10	45	36	40			
Tottenham	28	11	7	10	39	37	40			
West Bromwich	28	10	9	9	38	40	39			
Southampton	29	11	7	11	38	43	40			
Ipswich	28	10	8	10	43	32	38			
West Ham	27	12	2	13	43	41	38			
Stoke	27	11	5	11	39	41	37			
Arsenal	27	10	7	10	34	37	37			
Man. City	29	10	7	12	38	48	37			
Notts County	29	11	4	14	39	50	37			
Sunderland	28	8	9	11	33	43	33			
Millon	27	7	9	11	47	57	30			
Sheff. Wednesday	28	7	7	14	34	42	28			
Birmingham	27	5	12	10	23	36	27			
Nottingham	27	7	6	14	26	45	27			
Brighton	28	6	7	15	25	53	25			
Division Two										
Wolverhampton	28	17	5	6	53	31	56			
Q.P. Rangers	28	17	5	6	44	22	56			
Fulham	28	15	7	6	50	34	52			
Scottish Premier Division										
Aberdeen	25	18	4	3	53	17	40			
Celtic	24	18	3	3	64	27	39			
Dundee United	24	14	7	3	54	20	35			
Rangers	24	7	10	7	35	28	24			
Hibernian	25	5	11	9	21	31	21			
Dundee	24	6	8	10	29	33	20			
St. Mirren	24	5	9	10	24	36	19			
Motherwell	24	8	2	14	27	50	18			
Morton	25	4	8	13	24	48	16			
Kilmarnock	25	2	8	15	18	60	12			

U.K. rugby rebel tour in the offing

LONDON, Feb. 27 (AFP) — A rebel British Isles Rugby Union team, including a number of top players, could be heading for a financially lucrative tour of South Africa this summer.

This latest plan to entice international sportsmen to South Africa, coming after the recent West Indian cricket tour, was revealed here Sunday in the Observer.

Players dissatisfied by the selection for the forthcoming British Lions tour of New Zealand and others who cannot take the necessary three and a half months off work would make up the party, the paper reported.

The Observer said the scheme is being aided by Robert Denton, former chief administrator for Northern Transvaal Rugby Union, who now deals with sponsorship work for Danie Craven, the South African Rugby Union chief.

The secret recruitment of players has, in part, been carried out at matches in this season's Five Nations Championship, the 12-match tour, which would include three tests, is planned for May, and it is estimated the players could be paid as much as 50,000 pounds each.

Koch soars to top with hole-in-one

MIAMI, Feb. 27 (AP) — Gary Koch spiced his round of 65 with a hole-in-one and surged into a commanding, four-stroke lead Saturday after 54 holes of the \$300,000 Doral-Eastern Open Golf Tournament. Koch compiled a three-round total of 201, 15 strokes under par on the Blue Monster Course at the Doral Country Club, Miami.

With 18 holes to go in the chase for a \$54,000-first prize, Ed Fiori held second at 205. He had a third-round 67. George Burns salvaged a 70 with a sand save on the last hole and was next at 206. Tom Purtzer and Lanny Wadkins, each with a 70, followed at 207.

Ray Floyd, the current PGA title-holder and winner of this title two of the last three years, had a 69 and topped the group at 208, eight strokes under par on the difficult course but seven strokes back of Koch.

Tied with Floyd were Cal Peete, Tom Weiskopf, Clarence Rose and second-round leader Allen Miller. Peete and Weiskopf each had a 70. Kite's round of par 72 included a double bogey from the water on the final hole. Rose shot 71 and Miller surrendered the lead with a 73. Jack Nicklaus lost four strokes to Koch with a 69 and was at 209.

Long way to go--Souness

LONDON, Feb. 27 (AFP) — Liverpool captain Graeme Souness refused to accept that the English Division One Championship race was over after Saturday's 1-1 draw at Manchester United.

The result left Liverpool 14 points clear with 14 games remaining while Manchester United slipped from second to third.

Souness said, however: "People think it's over and done with, but it's not. We are not playing as well as we can and we could still fall apart in the league."

The Scottish international admitted: "We were delighted to come to United and get something from the game."

Fellow defender Phil Thompson of England, echoed those views. "There are a lot of games left and anything could happen. United have had a couple of injuries and the same could happen to us," he said.

Asked about the title, Manchester United manager, Ron Atkinson, said: "Graham Taylor (the Watford manager) might have something to say about that. They are closer than us to Liverpool at the moment. But that's a situation we don't intend to let remain."

Meanwhile, a Torquay businessman has come up with a novel form of sponsorship which could mean a four-figure pay-out to Fourth Division club Torquay United.

Nic Szeremeta has placed a 60 pounds sterling bet with bookmakers William Hill that Torquay will earn promotion by the end of the current season and any winnings will go to the Fourth Division club.

In Doral-Eastern Golf

Koch, 30, scored his second and last tour victory almost five years ago in the Citrus Open. He's been struggling since then and last season was on the verge of losing his playing rights. "I am fighting for my playing life," he said last October before he finished fifth in the Lajet Classic and secured a place in the top 125 money-winners.

Koch, one shot back when the day's play started, quickly moved into the lead with birdies on his first two holes. He chipped up to about 12 feet on the first hole and scored from about 12 feet (3.7 meters) on the second. The ace on No. 4 put him firmly in control.

"That's the first one the tour," he said. "I think it's the eighth I've had, but the first one the tour." He said the hole was playing at 185 yards and was downwind. He had to one-putt to save par on the next three holes, then got back into the game with a 6-iron shot to 6 feet (1.82 meters) and a birdie on the ninth that put him out in 31.

Koch stretched it out with an 8-iron shot to 4 feet (1.2 meters) for a birdie on the 14th, got to seven-under for the day with another short-iron shot inside of 6 feet for birdie-3 on the 17th, then saved par with a good bunker

shot on the difficult 18th.

Two share lead

Meanwhile, Parry Sheehan rolled in a 3-foot (.9 meter) birdie putt on the 18th hole Saturday to tie Australia's Jan Stephenson for the lead after the second round of the 54-hole, \$150,000 Tucson Conquistadores LPGA Open.

Sheehan and Stephenson are tied at 140 heading into Sunday's final round. They are three shots in front of five other golfers including LPGA Hall of fame golfer Sandra Haynie and Anne-Marie Fallot of France, who was tied for second after Friday's first round. Debbie Massey, Barbara Moyness and Amy Alcott are also at 143.



Norman...does it again

Norman finishes in blaze of glory

HONG KONG, Feb. 27 (AP) — Australia's Greg Norman fired a 66 in a final-round charge Sunday to win the \$150,000 Cathay Pacific Hong Kong Open for the second time in four years.

Norman shot a 32 on the front nine's fast-drying fairways and backed it with a 34 for a four-under-par round on the par-70, 6,694-yard Royal Hong Kong Golf Club Course. He finished with a six-under-par 134 in two days of play in the second tournament on the Asian circuit that was shortened by heavy rain.

Britain's Mark James finished second at 137 with a round of 71. He was a co-leader going into the day's round after shooting a 66 Saturday. Tied for third with 138s were last year's winner, American Kurt Cox, and Japan's Seichi Kanai.

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Government accuses foreign press

Nkomo told to notify planned movements

HARARE, Feb. 27 (R) — Zimbabwean opposition leader Joshua Nkomo said Sunday police had ordered him to report to them any movements he planned for his Bulawayo house. Nkomo, who was prevented a week ago from boarding an international flight, said the police told him by letter that the action was being taken because he might be prosecuted.

"This means I am under house arrest," he told Reuters by telephone.

Nkomo quoted the police letter of Sunday as saying: "As you are aware, there is a possibility of charges against you in terms of the Law and Order (Maintenance) Act, chapter 65.

"Bearing this in mind, we would request that you notify the police of any of your movements away from your house. This can be done by bringing Bulawayo central control room."

Nkomo said he had been away since Saturday and found the letter on his return Sunday. He did not say where he had been. Police took Nkomo, the acknowledged leader of Zimbabwe's troubled southwestern Matabeleland province, off a South African Airways flight from Bulawayo to Johannesburg last week.

He was questioned for eight hours and then freed. Three of his aides, held at the same time, are still in police custody. The government said he had intended to travel under a false name to South Africa to denounce the government of Prime Minister Robert Mugabe.

Nkomo maintains he was traveling under his proper name to a conference in Prague. He told reporters last week that he had made three statements to Bulawayo police in connection with possible charges under law and order.

Replies received on missing aliens

HARARE, Feb. 27 (AFP) — Two replies have been received to an appeal for information by the families of the six foreign tourists kidnapped in southwestern Zimbabwe last July. *The Sunday Mail* newspaper reported.

Both replies to the families appeal for news about their sons were anonymous, one appeared to contain accurate descriptions of the missing six, the paper quoted a spokesman for the families as saying.

When the six — two Americans, two Britons and two Australians — were abducted on the Victoria Falls-Bulawayo main road, a ransom note demanded the release of top military aides of opposition leader Joshua Nkomo.

The families last month placed full-page advertisements in Zimbabwe's newspapers saying that in return for the release of their sons they would pay for the legal defenses of the commanders of Nkomo's former guerrilla army commanders, who are on trial for treason.

The six were kidnapped by anti-government dissidents who have been operating in southwestern Zimbabwe for the past year to protest the sacking of Nkomo from the cabinet and the arrest of the military men.

Britain to decide on Trident models

LONDON, Feb. 27 (AFP) — Britain, which is planning to replace its Polaris nuclear missiles in the 1990s with the more accurate Trident, is now trying to decide between two Trident models. *The Observer* reported Sunday.

The newspaper added that the choice could lead to a significant increase in the size of Britain's arsenal, and a radical change in its nuclear strategy. Britain has contracted to buy the Trident C4 missile and to build the submarines that would carry them.

But recently, the United States has perfected a new Trident for its own submarines, the D5, which is more powerful, more accurate and more expensive — though less adapted to current British strategy and technological capacities, *The Observer* said.

The D5 would be directed against enemy nuclear bases, rather than cities as is the Polaris missile. Moreover, its warheads are twice as powerful as the existing British weapons, making it a potential first-strike weapon.

Although Britain has always maintained that CTS nuclear force is designed only as a deterrent, its military experts fear the problems of being "out of step" with the Americans, *The Observer* said.

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order laws and for an alleged currency offense.

On Friday Mugabe accused Nkomo, his ally during the Rhodesian Civil War before Zimbabwe's independence in 1980, of seeking South African military support to topple the government.

Meanwhile Zimbabwe Information Director Justin Nyoka has accused the foreign press of reporting what he called rumors and gossip inspired by Nkomo's opposition ZAPU party about alleged atrocities by government troops hunting dissidents in Matabeleland province.

The national news agency Zina quoted him Sunday as saying foreign news agencies such as Reuters and United Press International (UPI) had either exaggerated or fabricated figures of people killed in alleged atrocities by security forces.

Nonaligned officials to fix agenda

NEW DELHI, Feb. 27 (AFP) — Senior officials of nonaligned countries begin a two-day meeting here Tuesday to finalize the agenda for the seventh summit conference opening March 7, sources close to the officials said Sunday.

More than 500 delegates from 97 member countries will also seek agreement on a summit declaration on the world's current political and economic situation, based on the draft circulated by the host, India. Cambodia, Afghanistan, Namibia and the Middle East also will be discussed, the sources said, although they are not included on a 21-point draft agenda worked out by the movement's coordinating bureau at its last meeting, held in New York Feb. 10.

Among the items on that agenda are proposals aimed at strengthening peace and international security and at promoting solidarity and mutual assistance among the nonaligned countries.

Another issue to be discussed is disarmament and its implications for international security, and economic and social development.

Though the major emphasis will be on nuclear disarmament, the meeting will also deal with the influence of the arms race among members of the movement itself, conference sources said. Although the agenda does not include such divisive issues as Afghanistan, Cambodia and the Iran-Iraq war, the conference sources said there would be considerable discussion on these questions at all levels of the meeting.

In controversial matters, such as on Cambodian representation, participants are expected to set up expert groups to work toward achieving a consensus. The sources said the three Southeast Asian nonaligned countries, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Singapore, will press the conference to restore the Cambodian seat, left vacant since the Havana nonaligned summit in 1979, to the three-party coalition government headed by Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

India, which has recognized the Hanoi-backed Heng Samrin regime in Phnom Penh, has invited neither, upholding the vacant-seat decision at Havana. The three countries will seek to reverse this decision because, they contend, it was not based on consensus, as required by the nonaligned rules. They will also stress that at least 47 members of the movement have recognized the coalition government as the legitimate heir to the Cambodian seat at the United Nations, sources close to the delegations said.

On Afghanistan, some participants at the meeting will try to reinforce efforts being made by the United Nations special representative, Diego Cordovez, for a political settlement that would, among other things, enable an estimated million refugees in Pakistan and elsewhere to return home in honor, the sources said. Afghanistan is a nominal member of the nonaligned movement, although its contested government has close ties with the Soviet Union.

On the Iran-Iraq war, the sources said that a meeting between the presidents of the two countries, both of whom will be here for the week-long summit, is unthinkable. But, they added, no efforts will be spared to promote at least indirect contacts with a view to ending the war.

Matters that have aroused less controversy, and which are also likely to be discussed, are Namibian independence and the Palestinian issues.



'PURRFECT' PROTECTION: With the neighborhood watch program in effect in suburban Sacramento, California, Misty, a curious feline, sits on the fence and does her part by keeping her eyes open for cat burglars or any other suspicious activities in the area.

New Assam cabinet sworn in

GAUHATI, India, Feb. 27 (R) — Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's Congress (I) Party took power Sunday in violence-torn northeastern Assam state following an election victory which ended a year of direct rule from New Delhi.

But this state capital was blacked out by a power cut as militant Assamese students, who campaigned against this month's Assam elections in protest at the inclusion of large numbers of illegal immigrants on voting lists, announced a 24-hour work stoppage to coincide with the swearing-in ceremony.

Heavy rains worsened the plight of thousands of refugees made homeless by a month of campaign bloodshed in which, according to unofficial figures, 2,500 persons died. The students said they would meet in a day or two to discuss future strategy in their campaign to have the immigrants, mostly Bengali-speaking Muslims from neighboring Bangladesh, deported.

The new, 13-member state cabinet is headed by Hiteswar Saikia, 45, a former education minister, and includes three Muslims and two members of tribal groups in the state.

Mrs. Gandhi's party won a two-thirds majority in the 126-seat local assembly in the state elections. But many voters supported a boycott of the poll, which militant Assamese and opposition parties dubbed a farce.

Troops have now been deployed in five districts of Assam to quell bloodshed as the government and Red Cross mounted a relief operation for thousands of refugees left homeless.

Ex-CIA agent's trial begins today

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27 (R) — Former CIA agent Edwin Wilson, already in jail for smuggling arms to Libya, goes on trial Monday accused of conspiring to murder a Libyan defector and of training terrorists for Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi.

Wilson was sentenced to 32 years in prison and fined a total of \$345,000 in two trials in November and January for smuggling plastic explosives, pistols and a rifle to Libya after leaving the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in 1970. His lawyers said he was acting as a government agent and his Libyan activities had the CIA's tacit approval.

Government prosecutors have denied any official CIA involvement with Wilson while he was dealing with Libya. The 54-year-old former spy is accused of forging a close relationship with Libyan officials after he left the agency and providing support for terrorist activities.

In Monday's trial in Washington, the prosecution will try to prove Wilson attempted to arrange the murder of a Libyan dissident in Egypt and trained terrorists while living in Libya.

Wilson and his son Erik, 22, were indicted by a federal grand jury in New York last week on charges of offering \$1.2 million for the murders of two federal prosecutors and six other persons as Wilson senior awaited trial. Both have denied the charges.

Senegal votes amid fraud charges

DAKAR, Feb. 27 (R) — Senegal voted for a president and parliament Sunday amid opposition allegations of fraud. Five of the seven parties opposing the ruling Socialist Party (PS) said Saturday night that some voting cards had been fraudulently distributed.

President Abdou Diouf told journalists after voting Sunday morning that any such irregularities would be punished and any cards wrongly given out would be invalidated. "I think it is dangerous to invent disputes which do not exist," said Diouf, 48, who is widely expected to win another five-year term.

The opposition parties told a press conference Saturday night that some voters had received other peoples' cards. They alleged that polling was open to abuse due to a recent Interior Ministry ruling that a voting card, which bears a name but no photograph, and not an official identity card, was sufficient identification for voters.

The opposition parties said the government would be entirely responsible for any "electoral sabotage" and any "unfortunate consequences" which might arise from the ruling on cards for the 1.9 million voters.

Briton plans to put thieves in stocks

FALMOUTH, England, Feb. 27 (AP) — Department store owner Michael Robertson is so fed up with shoplifters he plans to put future culprits on public display — locked up in old-fashioned stocks. Robertson said Sunday he loses 130,000 pounds (\$202,000) a year to light-fingered customers.

As well as putting them in the stocks, he said he will write their names on boards next to them and display what they steal — if they agree to his punishment rather than prosecution.

The 62-year-old retailer who owns three stores in southwest England said he plans to install a 500-pound (\$775) wooden frame, with slots to hold the ankles of two shoplifters in the parking lot of his stores.

"I have no doubt that there will be a lot of people saying 'isn't it awful? How can this dreadful man do this?'" he said.

"But I'm strong on law and order and I'm sure that more people will think the stocks and the public ridicule that goes with them are the right treatment for shoplifters." Stock sentences would range from two to four hours, Robertson said, depending on the value of merchandise taken.

"I'm not trying to clash with the police. They have their work cut out. The real problem is the ridiculously low penalties the courts hand out," he said.

One person openly boasted of stealing 10,000 pounds (\$15,500) worth of goods from me and a court fined him a paltry 100 pounds (\$155).

Kremlin leaders hope for Vogel's poll victory

MOSCOW, Feb. 27 (AFP) — The Soviet Union is hoping more and more openly for a victory by the Social Democrats in West Germany's parliamentary elections next week in the belief they will back Moscow's bid to prevent the deployment of new U.S.-made intermediate-range missiles on German soil.

Informed Soviet sources insisted that the Kremlin's desire to see Hans-Jochen Vogel as the new chancellor in Bonn is above all based on his foreign policy program, which could lead to a reorientation of European security more to Moscow's liking.

Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko, in an interview with the party newspaper *Pravda* Thursday, appealed to Western European nations to distance themselves from U.S. positions in negotiations aimed at reducing intermediate-range missiles in Europe.

His call, interpreted as confirming Moscow's indirect support for Vogel in the elections scheduled for March 6, drew immediate fire from the government of Christian Democratic Chancellor Helmut Kohl. A Bonn government spokesman Friday accused the Soviet Union of "massive" interference in West German affairs, and even the opposition Social Democrats joined the condemnation.

Soviet preferences were evident last month when Vogel, on an official visit to Moscow, had a lengthy two-and-a-half-hour meeting with party chief Yuri Andropov, a privilege normally reserved for visiting heads of state rather than mere opposition leaders.

The reasons for the Kremlin's leanings are clear. Vogel has declared he would rethink the West German commitment to the deployment by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) of 108 Pershing-II and 96 Cruise missiles in West Germany if current Geneva negotiations fail.

He has said he favors inclusion of French and British arsenals in an overall European nuclear tally, a key element in the Soviet position announced in December by Andropov. The Social Democratic candidate for chancellor has also called on the United States to produce an offer to match Soviet Euro-missile reduction proposals in Geneva.

Informed Soviet sources said that based on his statements Vogel has given cause to hope his victory might lead to changes in negotiations on European security between the Soviet Union and NATO, with an increased role for Western Europe.

Observers see the Soviet analysis as a cautious translation of the Kremlin's desire to dissociate Western Europe from the United States in defense matters. Vogel's election, Soviet circles have said, could help further the Kremlin's aim. But Moscow cannot rule out the possibility of a victory by Chancellor Kohl in next week's vote.

During his trip last month to Bonn, Gromyko appeared to give his stamp of approval to Kohl's four-month-old government when he said he was convinced West Germany remained favorable to détente.

Informed Soviet sources said that if the Christian Democrats won the elections, Moscow would have to count more heavily in its efforts to block NATO plans on a "favorable evolution of European public opinion", that is, on the strength of the European peace movement.

U.K. tabloids join hands to taunt royals

LONDON, Feb. 27 (AFP) — The British royal family and the mass circulation tabloids are still at loggerheads, despite an injunction obtained by the palace to prevent the revelations of one of the kitchen staff members from being splashed across the pages of *The Sun*.

Its closest rival, *The Daily Mirror*, for once sprang to *The Sun's* defense over the latest incident involving a royal: the appearance of Princess Margaret's son, 21-year-old Viscount Linley clad only in coat and boots at the bar of the Royal Theater in Bath, a resort in southeast England.

"The queen may sometimes think her attempts to prevent gossip about the royal family would be more successful if its younger members didn't constantly provoke it," the paper commented.

Faced with a royal injunction, the first of its kind, Fleet Street's popular papers are sticking together. They know that their revelations on royalty are their biggest moneyspinners.

Although *The Sun* has featured the royal family as its top story 10 times this month, it was the allegations about the antics of Prince Andrew's actress girlfriend, Koo Stark, at Buckingham Palace on Feb. 21, that tried the queen's patience.

The article, based on information given by a servant in the royal household, said Miss Stark spent weekends at the palace when the queen was away. Prince Andrew apparently ordered breakfast for two and Koo raided the queen's favorite chocolates. The injunction prevented the promised follow-up on a bare foot Princess Diana buttering her toast in the office.

All this came after such headline-making events of last year as a mentally disturbed intruder conversing with the queen in her palace bedroom and the revelation that her bodyguard was a pervers.

German campaign enters final week

BONN, Feb. 27 (R) — The West German election campaign, accompanied by an unprecedented volume of comment and opinion from the two superpowers, moved into its final week Sunday with the outcome still uncertain.

Opinion polls suggest that when more than 40 million voters go to the polls next Sunday to elect a new Bundestag (lower house) they will confirm conservative Chancellor Helmut Kohl in office.

But it is less clear whether his centrist Free Democratic (FDP) coalition partners will be there to balance the right-wing influence of Franz Josef Strauss, leader of the Christian Social Union (CSU), the Bavarian wing of his Christian Democrats (CDU).

There is also an outside possibility that the opposition Social Democrats (SPD) could return to power with the support of the radical anti-nuclear Greens Party, an outcome which would set alarm bells ringing throughout the Western alliance.

The almost obsessive attention of the superpowers has been focused on West Germany ever since the SPD's candidate for chancellor, Hans-Jochen Vogel, turned the deployment of new U.S. nuclear missiles into the dominant issue of the campaign.

GLOBAL WEATHER									
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Bangkok	26	79	32	80	clear	Moscow	-9	16	-2
Beirut	7	45	12	54	clear	New Delhi	12	53	23
Berlin	3	37	8	46	cloudy	New York	-1	29	8
Brussels	21	36	10	50	cloudy	Nicosia	2	36	11
Buenos Aires	15	59	24	75	cloudy	Oelo	-7	19	-2
Cairo	5	41	12	55	cloudy	Paris	7	45	13
Caracas	20	68	30	86	cloudy	Peking	0	32	43
Chicago	-9	16	5	41	cloudy	Perth	21	70	29
Copenhagen	1	34	4	39	cloudy	Rio de Janeiro	24	75	38
Dublin	4	39	7	45	rain	Rome	1	34	10
Frankfurt	not available					San Francisco	11	52	16
Geneva	5	41	6	43	cloudy	Seoul	-4	25	9
Helsinki	-10	14	2	36	clear	Singapore	26	79	33
Hong Kong	14	57	15	59	cloudy	Stockholm	-6	21	2
Jakarta	24	75	32	90	rain	Sydney	22	72	21
Kuala Lumpur	22	72	34	93	clear	Taipei	14	57	16
London	6	43	11	52	cloudy	Tokyo	2	36	11
Los Angeles	13	55	19	66	rain	Toronto	-10	14	-2
Madrid	9	48	14	57	clear	Vancouver	7	45	11
Manila	19	66	33	91	clear	Vienna	-6	21	4

Riyadh
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RAWAN CONTRACTING

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